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Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

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Shri D.K. Shivakumar
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Government of Karnataka

ROW IN KERALA
Rollout of PM SHRI scheme put on hold
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Both face common challenges and have a shared responsibility
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WOLVAARDT'S DAY OUT
South Africa in final, India meets Australia
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U.S. is doing a trade deal with India, says Trump

At APEC CEO summit in South Korea, U.S. President says he has a great relationship with Modi; he reiterates claim that he used trade to resolve the conflict between India and Pakistan in May

Press Trust of India
TOKYO/SEOUL

U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday said Washington is "doing a trade deal with India", and emphasised that he has "a great relationship" with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as both sides continue negotiations on a proposed pact.

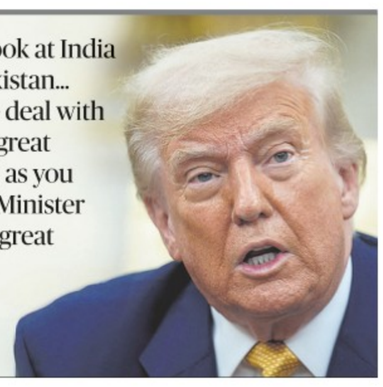
"If you look at India and Pakistan... so, I'm doing a trade deal with India and I have great respect and love, as you know, for Prime Minister Modi. We have a great relationship," Mr. Trump said at the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) CEO Summit in Gyeongju, South Korea.

"Prime Minister Modi is the nicest looking guy... he's tough as hell," Mr. Trump added. He landed in South Korea on Wednesday morning from Japan as part of a three-nation tour of Asia.

Mr. Trump, who did not elaborate on trade talks, reiterated his claim that he used trade to resolve the war between India and Pakistan in May.

"I called Prime Minister Modi. I said, we can't make a trade deal with you... (He said) No, no, we must make a trade... I said, No, we can't. You are starting a war with Pakistan. We're not going to do it," Mr. Trump said.

> If you look at India and Pakistan... I'm doing a trade deal with India and I have great respect and love, as you know, for Prime Minister Modi. We have a great relationship
>
> **DONALD TRUMP**
> U.S. President



Praises Pak. Army chief

He also praised Pakistan's Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, calling him "a great fighter" and "a great guy." "Then I called Pakistan. I said, we're not going to do trade with you because you're fighting with India and you know, two nuclear nations. And they said, no, no, no, you should let us fight. They both said that," he added.

Mr. Trump claimed that the leaders of both India and Pakistan called him after two days and stopped fighting. "After literally two days, they called up, they said, we understand, and they stopped fighting. How is that? Isn't that amazing? Now, you think [Joe] Biden would have done that?" Mr. Trump said.

The previous day, in Tokyo, Mr. Trump said he brought the war to an end in 24 hours.

'Under strain'

The U.S. President's comment came at a time when the relations between New Delhi and Washington have been reeling under severe strain after Mr. Trump imposed 50% tariffs on India, including an additional 25% levies for its procurement of Russian crude oil.

RELATED REPORT ON
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FTA talks with EU crossed halfway mark: Piyush Goyal

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The negotiations between India and the European Union on a free trade agreement have crossed the halfway mark, with 10 out of 20 chapters of the agreement having been finalised, and several other chapters nearing completion, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday.

"We have made significant progress in the three-day discussion between European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Maros Sefcovic and his team and our team on several areas," Mr. Goyal said at a press briefing.

"We have agreed to close 10 out of 20 chapters. Another four to five chapters have in principle been broadly decided."

CONTINUED ON
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Troubled waters: Heavy rain led to the rise in water level in several water bodies in Andhra Pradesh. Picture shows local residents engaged in fishing near Ongole on Wednesday. KOMMURI SRINIVAS

Cyclone Montha leaves two dead, flattens crops in A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Severe cyclonic storm Montha left a trail of destruction in Andhra Pradesh, leaving two persons dead and inundating agricultural crops across 87,000 hectares. It also damaged roads, bridges and culverts, and uprooted trees, officials said after a preliminary assessment.

The severe cyclonic storm crossed the Andhra Pradesh and Yanam coasts between 11.30 p.m. on Tuesday and 12.30 a.m. on Wednesday, close to Narsapuram in Andhra Pradesh, the India Meteorological Department said. Wind speeds touched 90 kmph near the Machilipatnam coast as the storm crossed the coast. It gradually weakened into a cyclonic storm by 2.30 a.m. and then into a deep depression by 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday, it added.

At 5.30 p.m., the deep depression over north Andhra Pradesh, south Odisha, south Chhattisgarh and northeast Telangana weakened into a depression over south Chhattisgarh. It is likely to move northwards and weaken into a well-marked low-pressure area during the next 12 hours, the bulletin at 8.30 p.m. said.

According to the preliminary assessment, crops were damaged on 87,000 hectares across 304 mandals and 1,825 villages. Over 59,000 hectares of paddy, cotton, maize, and black gram fields were submerged, resulting in severe losses to 78,796 farmers.

Several roads, 14 bridges, and culverts were damaged. About 2,294 km of roads were affected.

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NEARBY

Govt. mulls law to implement internal quota

BENGALURU
Under pressure from the Dalit Left groups to implement the internal reservation matrix in public employment and education, the government is getting ready to provide legislative teeth to implement the demand. Sources said that The Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-classification) Bill, 2025, will be piloted in the Winter Session of the legislature. » PAGE 8

Israel says ceasefire is back after strikes kill 104 in Gaza

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH, GAZA STRIP

Israel's military said on Wednesday that the ceasefire was back on in Gaza after it carried out heavy airstrikes overnight across the Palestinian territory that killed 104 people, including 46 children, according to local officials.

The strikes, the deadliest since the ceasefire began on October 10, marked the most serious challenge to the truce to date. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had ordered the strikes after accusing Hamas of violating the ceasefire for handing over body parts this week that Israel said were partial remains of a hostage recovered earlier in the war. That was compounded by the shooting and killing of an Israeli soldier during an exchange of gunfire in Rafah.

Hamas denied any involvement in the shooting.

Unending grief: Mourners react at the funeral of Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes, in Khan Younis on Wednesday. REUTERS

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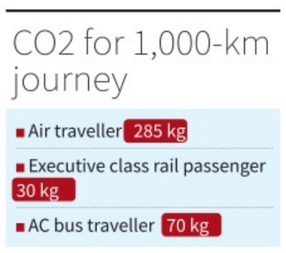
Report: Indian IT industry big contributor to business-driven air travel and carbon footprint

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Enforcing sustainable travel policies such as flying economy, choosing nonstop flights, trains or buses, and capping frequent flyer trips are among the recommendations made to IT companies in a report on the "Urgency and Potential of Aviation Impact Mitigation In India."

cBalance.in, a knowledge-centric solutions hub specialising in tool building and strategy development to support the management and mitigation of the impact of climate crisis which prepared the report, said that the Indian IT industry is a major contributor to business-driven air travel.



"Over a 1,000 km journey, an air traveller emits 285 kg of CO_2 per kilometre, while a railway passenger in even an air conditioned executive-class compartment emits 30 kg and in a comfortable AC bus the same passenger emits 70 kg. Clearly, air travel, irrespective of its efficiency benefits, is the most climate-polluting way to travel," it said.

Aligning to emission targets recommended by Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi), motivating employees via incentives e.g. bonuses for adhering to company emission targets and using low-carbon travel modes are among the other recommendations for IT companies.

Carbon reduction goals

cBalance.in further said that among eight global IT companies assessed based on their carbon reduction emission goals and business travel reduction performance (study period 2019-20 to 2023-24), five of the companies have indicated the need for more efforts towards meeting their climate goals.

Introduction of policies to cap aviation emissions, levy carbon taxes on air travel, discourage airlines from operating short-distance flights, and prioritising investment in high-speed and enhancement of regional rail infrastructure to encourage train travel were among the recommendations it made for policy makers and administrators.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 2

500 Indians in Thai custody to be repatriated

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India will repatriate 500 of its citizens who recently crossed into Thailand, fleeing from a Myanmar military operation against a cyberscam hub there, Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said, according to a *Bangkok Post* report on Wednesday.

The Myanmar military has carried out operations against the KK Park cyber crime hub in the Myawaddy township in southeastern Myanmar, which is known to have targeted many victims across the world. Following the operation, Indians working in the cybercrime compound crossed the border to Mae Sot in Thailand.

Following the Thai PM's remarks, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the authorities in New Delhi are "aware of Indian nationals who have been detained by Thai authorities", adding that the Indian Embassy in Bangkok is working with the Thai government to repatriate them.

"They had crossed into Thailand from Myanmar over the past few days. Our Mission in Thailand is working closely with Thai authorities to verify their nationality and to repatriate them, after necessary legal formalities are completed in that country," Mr. Jaiswal said.

> Our Mission in Thailand is working closely with Thai authorities to verify their nationality and to repatriate them, after necessary legal formalities are completed in that country
>
> **RANDHIR JAISWAL**
> MEA spokesperson

Hub of cybercrime

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had raised concerns about Indians stuck in scam centres in the region during his speech at the East Asia Summit on October 27. "We share the concern about scam centres in the region which has also entrapped our nationals," he had said.

CONTINUED ON
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Road rage ends in murder, 2 held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Puttenahalli police arrested a 34-year-old martial arts trainer and his wife for murdering a 24-year-old gig worker over a minor road rage incident in Srirama Layout, Puttenahalli on October 25 night.

Darshan and his friend Varun G., both food delivery executives, were riding a bike and brushed the side of a car breaking the mirror. Scared of the backlash, the duo fled the scene.

However, the now arrested occupants of the car Manoj Kumar, 34, who runs a martial arts training academy in Gottigere, and his wife, Aarti Sharma, 30, chased them for over 2 km. They rammed their car into the bike and fled even as the duo on the bike fell down. Though both were immediately rushed to a nearby hospital, Arun was declared brought dead, and Varun suffered severe injuries and is being treated at the hospital.

The J.P. Nagar Traffic Police initially registered a case of hit-and-run. However, analysing the CCTV camera footage, the police realised that those in the car took a U-turn, chased down those on the bike and deliberately rammed the bike. The footage also shows that the couple, masked up, came back to the spot hours later and collect parts of the car that had fallen off during the accident, to cover up their tracks, the police said.

The Puttenahalli Police tracked down the couple, arrested them and booked them for murder and destruction of evidence.

Yudhvir: a vital cog in Jammu & Kashmir's pace battery

In his last two matches against Mumbai in the Ranji Trophy, the 28-year-old from Jammu has accounted for batters like Rohit, Jaiswal, Shreyas and Rahane; having played for India-A against Australia-A in two 50-over games in Kanpur a few weeks ago, the speedster is aware that he is catching the attention of the national selectors

Vivek Krishnan

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Rohit Sharma, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shreyas Iyer and Ajinkya Rahane are all batters with successful track records in international cricket. In his last two games against Mumbai in the Ranji Trophy, Jammu & Kashmir's Yudhvir Singh has accounted for all these batters.

The 28-year-old, athletic and broad-shouldered as is typical of his fast-bowling tribe, may not have experienced the bright lights of international cricket. But by dismissing players of proven pedigree in First Class cricket, Yudhvir is certainly exhibiting that he has the tools to make further strides.

In January this year, J&K came up against Mumbai at the Sharad Pawar Cricket Academy in Bandra in a proverbial David versus Goliath battle. While the 42-time champion had as many as six players with international experience in its midst, Paras Dogra's men were devoid of such high calibre. However, by the end, it were the J&K players who were rejoicing a five-wicket win - their second in a row over the domestic giant in India's principal First Class competition. Much of the credit for the victory could be attributed to Yudhvir -- he took four wickets in the first innings and three in the second to finish with a match haul of seven for 95 and claim the player-of-the-match award.

In mid-October, in Srinagar's quaint but highly-guarded Sher E Kashmir Cricket Stadium, Yudhvir was Mumbai's nemesis with the ball once again. Never mind J&K not getting over the line on this occasion - it went down by a narrow margin of 35 runs on a nerve-wracking final day - Yudhvir played his part to a large degree in keeping the host in the contest until the dying stages by taking a five-for in the first innings to restrict Mumbai to 386. In the list of batters that he dismissed were Rahane, Ayush Mhatre, Shams Mulani, Tanush Kotian and Shardul Thakur.

The opening day of the Ranji encounter hadn't begun auspiciously for the fast bowler. In his first six deliveries, he had conceded 12 runs. But a change of ends and a word of encouragement from his teammates enabled Yudhvir to regain his poise and go about his work. In a short span, he had the prodigiously talented Mhatre and the widely experienced Rahane in his kitty with deliveries that deviated off the pitch and took the outside edge.

"I just focus on my bowling. Sometimes, runs will be leaked. You shouldn't pay too much attention to that," Yudhvir threw light on his mindset in a chat during the Ranji fixture in Srinagar. "Even when runs are conceded, you should always think of coming back strongly. And when I got a second spell, I focused on putting the ball on one spot and being in rhythm. I did that and got wickets."

To get the better of Rahane, a man with 85 Test caps under his belt, pleased Yudhvir in particular. "My deliveries were moving well. And he had been beaten a couple of times. I just kept bowling the ball on that length. From there, it moved and took the edge," Yudhvir said with a gleeful smile.

India-A call-up

It is performances like these that have prompted the national selectors to promote Yudhvir into the India A set-up. A few weeks ago, Yudhvir, who has represented Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) and Rajasthan Royals (RR) in the Indian Premier League, played two 50-over matches for the Shreyas-led India A against Australia A in Kanpur. Though he scalped just one wicket and conceded 72 runs in 6.4 overs across the two outings, it offered a valuable learning experience. Apart from bowling to Australian internationals like Jake Fraser-McGurk and Cooper Connolly, there was also the perk of sharing a dressing room with the likes of Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Arshdeep Singh and Harshit Rana.

"India A was a very good experience. A few players had come in after playing the Asia Cup. There was a lot that I got to learn," he reflected. "Bowling to the Aussies and playing at a higher level, you are able to absorb a lot. And there are many to teach you as well. The coaches and senior players do come and share tips."

Greater attention on J&K

Yudhvir's rise has coincided with J&K's progress in the cricketing establishment. In September, Mithun Manhas, who was Director of Cricket Operations at the Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) after retiring as a player in 2017, was unanimously elected to the post of BCCI president at its 94th Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Mumbai.

While performance remains paramount in India's highly competitive environment, Yudhvir finds motivation in knowing that his numbers are being noticed by the men who matter. When he was picked in the North Zone squad for the season-opening Duleep Trophy in August, he was one of five J&K players in the 15-member contingent. National selector Ajay Ratra was present for the fixture between J&K and Mumbai in Srinagar.

"Yes, absolutely," Yudhvir replied when asked whether the performances of J&K players are catching the eye more than ever before. "With Mithun sir's arrival, J&K cricket has changed a lot. Everyone is getting opportunities.

"We used to get it earlier as well, but we didn't get as many opportunities. Now, even the national selectors are coming to see us. Last season, S. Sharath was the selector who came to see the match against Services where I took eight wickets. Then there was the match against Mumbai. I did well in that as well. There has been a lot of backing from Mithun sir and the coaches. That is when a team does well. Earlier, if we didn't do well in one or two matches, there would be pressure and we would be out of the team. But the situation has changed for the better."

If not for Manhas, J&K may have actually lost Yudhvir to Hyderabad. While the six-feet tall quick represented the under-19 team of J&K, his Ranji Trophy and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy debuts came for the southern team in the 2019-20 season.

"I had gone to Hyderabad to give trials for the Army and get into the Services team. I bowled well there. There is regular league cricket in Hyderabad. I scored 365 runs and took 15 wickets in five matches," Yudhvir recounted. After that, I played for the Hyderabad under-23 side. Ambati Rayudu saw me there. He supported me. So, I ended up playing Ranji Trophy there. I played one season of Ranji and two seasons of T20 for Hyderabad."

But with Manhas keen to bolster the J&K outfit after taking charge, the Jammu lad was brought back home ahead of the 2022-23 season.

Yudhvir's prominence has been aided by the fact that he is part of an in-form pace attack also featuring the highly-promising Auqib Nabi and Umar Nazir. In J&K's run to the Ranji quarters last season, the trio fired collectively and shared 87 wickets. Nabi was also picked in North Zone's team for the Duleep Trophy this year and made headlines by claiming four scalps in four deliveries against East Zone in Bengaluru. In the recent game against Mumbai, Nabi snared a five-for as well before going on to claim a match haul of 10 for 53 in a crushing win against Rajasthan in the second round.

"See, last season as well, we all bowled collectively and backed each other," assessed Yudhvir. "Sometimes, someone might not get a wicket and not bowl that well. But we keep backing each other as a pace attack. That's how we operate. Even if somebody concedes runs in a spell, we are there to support him and tell him that he will come back well in the next spell."

Strike bowler

As a quick bowler who is around the 140 km/h mark consistently, Yudhvir's role in the team is to land frequent breakthroughs. "I should get wickets for the team. That is my mindset," he stated.

It is possible to do, as he has understood, only when the right length is consistently hit.

"I used to bowl short of good length. But by playing regularly in the Ranji Trophy, my length has improved," he observed. "I can now consistently hit the good-length area. Bowling in Ranji teaches you a lot. In white-ball cricket, you can alter your length. But with the red ball, you have to consistently bowl in one area to get wickets. It came into my game last year, and I got wickets as well."

If Yudhvir has come into his own only over the past year or so, it may be because of his relatively late start. Belonging to a region where state-of-the-art facilities and a pathway aren't readily available, he played cricket with a tennis ball without any thought of taking up the game seriously until his late teens.

"I was 19 when I started playing with the leather ball," he informed. "Before that, I played tennis-ball cricket for 2-3 years. My friends used to push me to give trials, but I kept doubting myself and kept thinking about how I'm going to get selected as I didn't know what was the right way to go about it. Coming from a middle-class family, my father wanted me to focus on my studies. But my sisters backed me, they used to keep telling my father to let me play."

Once he overcame his jitters and attended the trials, he was on the right track.

"First time I went to the trials, I got selected in the under-19 team. In my first match, I took five wickets against Mumbai. But I did not have any idea about how to pace myself. I bowled well, but got really tired as it was the first four-day match I was playing," he remembered. "I learnt a lot from that experience. Since then, I haven't turned back."

PTI

THE GIST

- By dismissing players of proven pedigree in First Class cricket, Yudhvir is certainly exhibiting that he has the tools to make further strides
- The pacer has come into his own only over the past year or so and it may be because of his relatively late start. Belonging to a region where state-of-the-art facilities and a pathway aren't readily available, he played cricket with a tennis ball
- Yudhvir's prominence has been aided by the fact that he is part of an in-form pace attack also featuring the highly-promising Auqib Nabi and Umar Nazir

KEA directed not to finalise third round allotment of seats to medical and dental courses

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday directed the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) not to finalise till October 30 the allotment of seats for medical and dental courses in the third round of counselling based on the provisional allotment list published on October 24.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Jayant Banerji and Justice K.V. Aravind passed the interim order on petitions filed by Chandana M. Chavan and several other students.

Primary grievance

The primary grievance of the petitioners is that less meritorious students, based on their NEET rank, were allotted seats in the provisional list announced for the third round owing to the procedure and the criteria adopted for allotment of seats in the third round of counselling.

The procedure adopted by the KEA, the petitioners have contended, was contrary to that adopted for allotment of all India quota seats in all government colleges across the country and the procedure followed in many States for admission to medical courses, the petitioners have said.

Compelling the students to join the colleges in which they were allotted seats in the second round and not allowing them to participate in the third round against the consequential vacant seats in a few colleges, has resulted in allotment of seats under government quota seats for less meritorious students, who were not allotted any medical seats in the first two rounds.

Chnace denied

The KEA's procedure also denied a chance for some students, who got a seat with higher fee in private colleges in the second round, to opt for a government quota seat in the third round despite the availability of a seat for their rank as they were not allowed to participate in the third round, the petitioners have contended.

Supply chains new borders, technology the new territory, data the new diplomacy: Rao

Delivering lecture on 'Beyond Borders: Preparing for a World in Transition', Nirupama Rao outlined the shifts reshaping global politics, economics and leadership

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Nirupama Menon Rao
K. MURALI KUMAR

The world is entering an era of re-globalisation – one built not on retreat, but on diversification, trusted partnerships and shock-resistant systems, said former Foreign Secretary of India Nirupama Rao at the 52nd Foundation Day celebrations of the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) on Wednesday.

Delivering the Foundation Day lecture on 'Beyond Borders: Preparing for a World in Transition', Ms. Rao outlined the shifts reshaping global politics, economics and leadership. "The vocabulary of global affairs has shifted. Geopolitics today is no longer about territory and force alone. Supply chains are the new borders, technology the new territory, data the new diplomacy, climate the new conflict line and narrative is the new battleground. In short, geo-economics now determines corporate destiny," she said.

Ms. Rao said this transformation represents re-globalisation, not de-globalisation, with the world reorganising itself for resilience.

'Multipolar system'

"The world's operating system is moving toward multipolarity, and power is no longer stored in one capital or expressed through one model. India has been pivotal in this shift, and that is why India's presidency of the G20 mattered," she added.

She described India's strengths such as democratic stability, demographic vitality, digital inclusion, and a deepening manufacturing base as the foundation for the country's growing global role. Elaborating further on what leadership in this new age requires, Ms. Rao identified the "capitals of tomorrow" - trust, data, demographic, climate and cultural capital and said India has strengths across all five. She underlined the need for integrity and accountability, particularly in an era dominated by technological disruption.

"Leadership in technology must be ethical. We must therefore lead not only in AI development but also in AI governance - transparent, accountable, and human-centred. Technology must serve humanity, not replace it," she said, adding that ethics should go beyond compliance.

On climate change, Ms. Rao called it a determinant of both economic destiny and national security. "The climate discourse must move from guilt to responsibility and from pledges to execution. Sustainability must become the language of business, not only of policy."

Reiterating that India is ready to shape the global agenda, she added, "India is no longer waiting to be invited to the table, India wants to co-author the script." She urged IIMB and other higher education institutions to go beyond teaching problem-solving and instead cultivate future-building. The world needs leaders who are economically intelligent and geopolitically aware, data-driven and human-centred, anchored in purpose. The age of single-discipline leadership is past, this is the age of integrated leadership, she said.

From Page One

Indian IT industry a big contributor to carbon footprint, says report

"Wipro Technologies has proven to be a pioneer in business travel emission reduction among the Indian-headquartered IT companies, since 2015. Its travel policy is inclusive of train travel," it said.

The report also evaluated the impacts and resistance and protests by local communities towards the same, through studying two airport expansion projects - KIA in Bengaluru, and an airport proposed in Parandur situated in Kanchipuram district, Tamil Nadu. "The primary source of income for many of the displaced villages in the case of the KIA was agriculture. With the acquisition of their land, they lost their primary means of livelihood. Approximately 4,000 acres of land were acquired, displacing numerous families. The residents who were displaced faced issues like inadequate compensation, loss of livelihoods, and limited opportunities for resettlement," the report stated.

Case filed for pro-Pak Wifi network name

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Jigani Police have filed a non-cognisable complaint against an unknown person for using a pro-Pakistan slogan to name his WiFi internet network.

Based on the complaint filed by a resident identified as Govardhan Singh, a Bajrang Dal activist, police have taken up a case. The complainant, while checking for available Wi-Fi networks to access the Internet, reportedly found a Wi-Fi connection named "Pakistan Zindabad" in Kallubalu village in Jigani. He submitted a screenshot of the username.

BJP MP urges govt. to build 300 km of metro and suburban rail

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Continuing his opposition to the proposed Tunnel Road Project, BJP MP Tejasvi Surya on Wednesday argued that instead of spending ₹43,000 crore on the tunnel road that would only help car owners to move within a small corridor, the government could judiciously use these funds to set up over 300 km of metro network and implementation of another 314 km of suburban rail project so that 70% of Bengaluru's population would use public transport. Making a presentation on alternatives to the proposed project at a press conference at the BJP State office here, Mr. Surya argued that it could not solve the traffic woes of Bengaluru as it would cater to a limited number of road users in a small area.

He appealed to Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, whom he met on Tuesday, to ensure that his regime as Bengaluru Development Minister was marked by the introduction of a tram network in Bengaluru.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of E-Tender Notice No. B/TRD.2025-26/23 Dated: 23-10-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
OHE Modification in connection with proposed GCT siding work of M/s BPCL Ltd., at Devangonthi Station	Rs. 2,01,55,170.83

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 13-11-2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD
PUB/585/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 Bengaluru
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

भारतीय खाद्य निगम FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
REGIONAL OFFICE : No. 10, EAST END MAIN ROAD, 4th 'T' BLOCK, JAYANAGAR, BENGALURU - 560041
No. RO KA-34.0028.0/3/2025-SLS-RO KA Date: 29.10.2025
सूचना / NOTICE
महाप्रबंधक (कर्नाटक), भारतीय खाद्य निगम, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, बैंगलोर ओएमएसएस (डी) [बल्क बिक्री] के तहत रेक मूवमेंट के माध्यम से चावल की बिक्री के लिए सूचीबद्ध और पंजीकृत व्यापारियों / बल्क उपभोक्ताओं से बोलियां आमंत्रित करते हैं।
ओएमएसएस(डी) के अंतर्गत बिक्री हेतु चावल का आरक्षित मूल्य पूरे भारत में 2890/–रुपये प्रति क्विंटल (लागू करों सहित) निर्धारित किया गया है। चावल खरीदने के इच्छुक बोलीदाता को न्यूनतम 10,000/–मीट्रिक टन और अधिकतम 50,000/–मीट्रिक टन की बोली लगानी होगी। एनआईटी प्रत्येक शुक्रवार को जारी की जाती है और नीलामी प्रत्येक बुधवार को दोपहर 3:00 बजे से शाम 6:00 बजे तक भारतीय खाद्य निगम की ओर से मेसर्स एम–जंक्शन सर्विसेज लिमिटेड के माध्यम से होती है।
इच्छुक खरीदार ई–नीलामी के साथ ओएमएसएस (डी) के तहत चावल की बल्क बिक्री के लिए वेबसाइट **www.fci.gov.in** या **https://valuejunction.in/fci/** पर प्रकाशित एमटीएफ देख सकते हैं।
The GM (KTK), FCI, RO, Bangalore invites bids from empanelled and registered traders/ bulk consumers for **Sale of RICE through rake movement under OMSS(D) [Bulk Sale].**
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महाप्रबंधक (कर्नाटक)
GENERAL MANAGER (Karnataka)

Higher Education Department
Government of Odisha
No. HE-SCH-POLICY-0002-2025: 58221/H.E., Bhubaneswar Dated: 28.10.2025
INVITATION OF TENDER FROM UPSC COACHING INSTITUTES FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL UPSC CIVIL SERVICES COACHING SPONSORED BY HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, ODISHA
Tenders in two bid systems (Technical Bid & Commercial Bid) are invited from competent Coaching Institutes having an excellent track record with well-equipped infrastructure, for imparting coaching for UPSC (Civil Services) Examination.
The agency will quote the cost separately for **(1)** the coaching, which shall be inclusive of GS (Prelims cum main & optional subject], **(2)** well-equipped infrastructures.
a) Joint Venture Consortium is also permitted.
b) For the detailed bid document, interested bidders can visit the website **https://dhe.odisha.gov.in (Tender Section) or https://odisha.gov.in (Tender & Advt. Section)**
c) Tender available date is **29/10/2025**
d) Last Date for Submission of Bid is **18/11/2025 (17:00 hrs.)**
The Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Govt., Higher Education Department, Govt. of Odisha reserves the right to reject or cancel any or all BID/TENDER.
Additional Secretary to Government
N-186 OIPR-11001/11/0116/2526

PUBLIC NOTICE
TO ALL CONCERNED
It has come to the notice of the trustees of Abhyudaya Educational trust, that a person named Smt. Rajyalakshmi stating to be the constituted power of attorney of Smt. Gruhalakshmi has executed a supplementary trust deed on 23rd October 2025, before the sub Registrar Gandhi Nagar, Bengaluru with document number GAN-4-00168-2025-26 in volume number 4, WITHOUT ANY AUTHORITY WHATSO EVER.
The supplementary deed is stated to have been based on a meeting held on 19th October 2025 at the registered office of the trust at "TARAKA", No. 170/A,10th Main, RMV Extension, Opp. BWSSB Water tank, Sadashiva Nagar, Bengaluru - 560080.
The Above document has ben executed by persons who have no authority or presence in our trust. The Registered office of our trust is No 208, Westminster Building, No. 13, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560 052 and continues to be the same.
The supplementary deed has been executed without any authority what so ever and for reasons best known to them selves.
PUBLIC ARE CAUTIONED NOT TO DEAL WITH THE ALLEGED PERSONS OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED TRUST BASED ON THE ILLEGAL SUPPLEMENTARY DEED WHICH HAS NO LINKS, ATTACHEMENTS WITH OUR TRUST. ANY PERSON DEALING WITH THEM WILL BE DOING AT THEIR OWN RISK AND THE ABHYUDAYA TRUST IS NEITHER LIABLE NOR RESPONSIBLE WHICH MAY KINDLY BE NOTED.
ABHUDAYA EDUCATIONAL TRUST
Place: Bengaluru
Date : 28th October 2025

EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

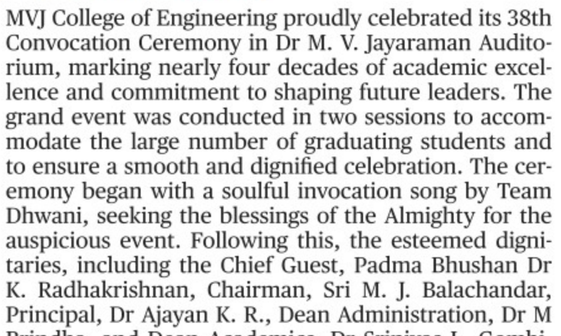
Presidency University collaborates with ICAR-IIHR, hosts hackathon 'CHIP TO CROP'

Presidency School of Engineering and Presidency School of Computer Science and Engineering hosted a 24-hour hackathon titled 'Chip to Crop'. The event was organized in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) Bengaluru. Dr.Tusar Kanti Behera-Director, ICAR-IIHR Bengaluru, inaugurated the hackathon along with Dr.Nissar Ahmed-Chancellor, Presidency University. Dr.Behera expressed his happiness at the collaboration between ICAR-IIHR and Presidency University and urged the student innovators to use latest technological tools to develop precision agricultural techniques. Dr.Nissar Ahmed laid emphasis on the importance of having such events in the University campus as they give students the golden opportunity to get real exposure and learn from industry experts. Dr.M.S.Divyarani-Deputy Director and organiser of this hackathon ,thanked the guests and leadership team of the University for their encouragement and support.

Pravrutti 2025 – M. S. Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (RUAS) hosts its First National-Level Tech Fest

M. S. Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (RUAS), Bengaluru, proudly inaugurated Pravrutti 2025, the University's first-ever National Level Tech Fest. The event celebrates technology, innovation, and creativity–marking a major milestone in RUAS's efforts to promote interdisciplinary collaboration and technical excellence among students. The fest has received an overwhelming response. These events are designed to challenge and inspire students from undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programs, showcasing innovation across diverse domains of science and technology. The Inaugural Ceremony was held at the RTC Ground, Peenya. The event was graced by Mr. Binod Hampapur, Hon. Chairman, Board of Governors, Rangadore Memorial Hospital, as the Guest of Honour, and Mr. Devaraj, Joint Director, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, as the Chief Guest. Pravrutti 2025 stands as a celebration of youthful energy, scientific curiosity, and teamwork. Through this initiative, RUAS reaffirms its commitment to nurturing future engineers, scientists, doctors, and entrepreneurs who will drive technological advancement and nation building.

Launch of Organic manure 'Gaubio' at Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology, Bengaluru



Dr. S.V. Suresha, Vice Chancellor, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, while launching the liquid fermented organic manure 'Gaubio', made from cow dung and cow urine based slurry extract, at Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology, Bengaluru opined the launch of 'Gaubio' liquid fermented organic manure, the product of Vasuki Agro Chemicals LLP, Shivamogga, supported and encouraged by Atal Innovation Centre-Nitte (AIC-NITTE) and Atal Community Incubation Centre-NMIT Foundation (ACIC-NMIT Foundation), is a huge relief for farmers in particular and nation at large. Shree Roopa, IAS, Commissioner, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Government of Karnataka was also the guest on the occasion and other dignitaries were present on the occassion.

MVJ College of Engineering celebrates 38th Convocation ceremony

MVJ College of Engineering proudly celebrated its 38th Convocation Ceremony in Dr M. V. Jayaraman Auditorium, marking nearly four decades of academic excellence and commitment to shaping future leaders. The grand event was conducted in two sessions to accommodate the large number of graduating students and to ensure a smooth and dignified celebration. The ceremony began with a soulful invocation song by Team Dhwani, seeking the blessings of the Almighty for the auspicious event. Following this, the esteemed dignitaries, including the Chief Guest, Padma Bhushan Dr K. Radhakrishnan, Chairman, Sri M. J. Balachandar, Principal, Dr Ajayan K. R., Dean Administration, Dr M Brindha, and Dean Academics, Dr Srinivas L. Gombi, graced the occasion by lighting the ceremonial lamp. Dr Srinivas L. Gombi, Dean of Academics, delivered the welcome address and warmly welcomed the chief guest, dignitaries, faculty, students, and parents. The Chief Guest, Padma Bhushan Dr K. Radhakrishnan, officially declared the Graduation Day open, marking the commencement of the convocation proceedings. Dr Salim A., Dean of Research, delivered a heartfelt Vote of Thanks, expressing gratitude to the Chief Guest, dignitaries, faculty, staff, students, and parents for their contribution to the success of the ceremony. The ceremony concluded with the National Anthem.

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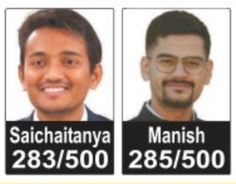

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CHANGE OF NAME
I, VARSHA Kulkarni d/o Mangalmurti Kulkarni, r/o: F.102, B Block Keerthi Signature, ITPL Main Road, Hoodi, Mahadevapura, Blr –560048. Have changed my name as Varsha Mangalmurti Kulkarni. vide affidavit on 28/10/25.

I, hitherto known as M. Venkatesu alias M. Venkatesh, S/o Muneppa, employed as Sub Inspector (GD) in Border Security Force, R/o Village Dosegownour, Post Dosegownour, Taluk Kuppam Mandalam, Dist: Chittoor, State: Andhra Pradesh-517425, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as M. Venkatesh.

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E-Tenders (https://etenders.kerala.gov.in) are invited for the Supply of IMFL Case Labels for Pasting on Jawan XXX Rum Cases
E-tender id: 2025_TSC _813276_1
Last Date of Submission is - 01.11.2025 at 3.00 PM.
For more details contact office/website.
Thiruvalla Sd/-
25.10.2025 General Manager (I/C)

Nanometre 'tank' of helium reveals weird waves never seen before

When cooled to just a few degrees above absolute zero, helium becomes a superfluid — it can flow without any friction or viscosity; this means an ultra-shallow film of superfluid helium, a few nanometres thick, can move freely without getting stuck — something impossible for any normal fluid

Vasudevan Mukunth

Imagine a tsunami, a colossal wave capable of traveling across entire oceans and causing immense destruction. Now, picture another special kind of wave, known as a soliton. Unlike a regular wave that spreads out and loses energy, a soliton is a solitary wave that holds its shape and speed over incredibly long distances. These powerful and mysterious waves are examples of what scientists call nonlinear wave dynamics. Understanding them is crucial for everything from predicting natural disasters to designing better communications systems.

For decades, scientists have studied these waves in enormous, hundred-metre-long water tanks called wave flumes. By generating waves in these controlled environments, they can observe how they behave.

However, even the biggest and most advanced wave flumes have a major limitation: they can't replicate the extreme conditions that create the most powerful nonlinear waves found in nature, like the sheer force of a tsunami or the intensity of the world's most extreme tides. "Nonlinear" here means the wave's behaviour doesn't scale in a simple, proportionate way; instead, small changes in conditions can produce disproportionately large or unpredictable effects. The physics behind these waves is very complex, and reaching the level of nonlinearity seen in nature has been impossible to achieve in a lab.

Incredible properties

This is the challenge a team of researchers from the University of Queensland in Australia set out to surmount. But instead of going even bigger, they went much smaller.

They created a wave flume on a microscopic chip and used a unique kind of fluid to generate waves more powerful (relative to their size) than anything ever seen on the earth. Their goal was to create a platform to study the full range of nonlinear wave behaviour in a controlled, miniature environment.

"The study of how fluids move has fascinated scientists for centuries because hydrodynamics governs everything from ocean waves and the swirl of hurricanes to the flow of blood and air through our bodies," study coauthor and ARC Future Fellow Christopher Baker said in a statement. "But a lot of the physics behind waves and turbulence has been a mystery."

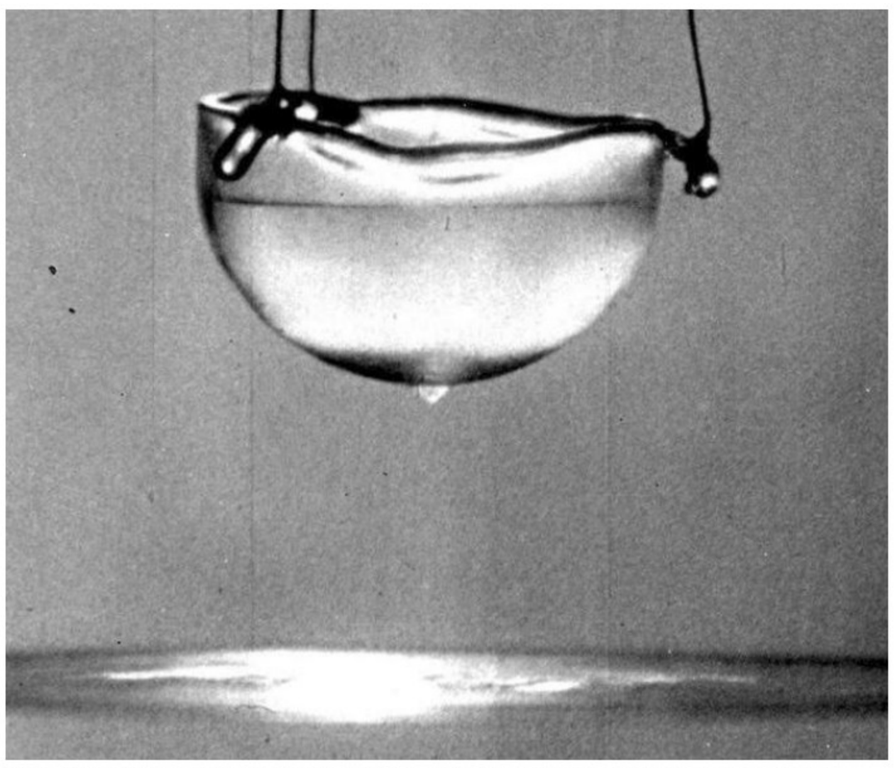
The findings were published in *Science* on October 23.

When cooled to just a few degrees above absolute zero, helium becomes a superfluid – a unique quantum state of matter with incredible properties. Most importantly in this context, it can flow without any friction or viscosity. This means an ultra-shallow film of superfluid helium just a few nanometres thick can move freely without getting stuck. This is impossible for any normal fluid.

The team fabricated a silicon beam about the width of a human hair on a chip. When cooled, a 6.7-nm deep film of superfluid helium could naturally coat this beam, creating a perfect wave channel.

Lilliputian paddles

The next challenge was to make waves in such a small system and see them. At one end of the silicon beam, the team built a photonic crystal cavity – a structure with nanometre-wide holes that trapped light. When the researchers shone a laser into this cavity, it heated the superfluid helium slightly.



Superfluid helium can creep up the surface of the cup, climb out, and drip down from the bottom. Classical fluids can't do this. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Superfluid helium has another strange property: it flows towards rather than away from heat, a phenomenon called the fountain effect. By rapidly changing the laser's intensity, they could create pulses of heat that pushed the superfluid, like a Lilliputian light-powered paddle.

Second, the height of the helium film affected the light trapped in the cavity. As a wave passed by, raising or lowering the fluid's surface, it slightly changed the light's frequency. By monitoring the light coming out of the cavity, the researchers could precisely measure the shape and height of the waves in real-time in a very sensitive way. Thus, this all-optical system allowed the team to both generate powerful waves and observe their behaviour on a microscopic scale.

With their chip-scale wave flume up and running, the researchers were able to observe a whole host of nonlinear phenomena that had previously been stuck on paper.

One of the first things they observed was backward steepening. In a normal water wave, the crest moves faster than the trough, causing the wave to lean forward and eventually break.

In the superfluid, they saw the exact opposite. The troughs moved faster than the crests, causing the wave to lean backwards before breaking. This strange behaviour had been predicted for superfluid helium decades ago but had never been directly observed.

Solitary waves

Second, by cranking up the power of their laser paddle, they generated even more extreme waves and witnessed the formation of near-instantaneous shock fronts: where the wave's leading edge becomes almost vertical. And then, they saw something even more spectacular: soliton fission. The powerful initial wave, instead of just breaking, split apart into a train of smaller, perfectly formed solitary waves, or solitons. The team was able to generate a train of up to 12 of these solitons from a single wave pulse.

Intriguingly, these solitons weren't like those we normally see in water, which are peaks that rise above the surface. These were hot solitons – propagating as depressions or troughs below the average fluid depth. Read that again: below the average fluid depth. They're called hot solitons because their troughs are slightly warmer than the surrounding superfluid. This remarkable observation confirmed another long-standing prediction about superfluid dynamics.

> The study of how fluids move has fascinated scientists for centuries because hydrodynamics governs everything from ocean waves and the swirl of hurricanes to the flow of blood and air through our bodies
>
> **CHRISTOPHER BAKER**
> ARC FUTURE FELLOW

"Using laser light to both drive and measure the waves in our system, we have observed a range of striking phenomena," said Dr. Baker. "We saw waves that leaned backward instead of forward, shock fronts, and solitary waves known as solitons which travelled as depressions rather than peaks. This exotic behaviour has been predicted in theory but never seen before."

Macroscopic to microscopic

Using a microscopic platform to study waves evidently had several advantages. First, the experiments played out much faster. Phenomena that would take hours to observe in a giant water tank unfolded in just milliseconds, allowing scientists to collect vast amounts of data quickly.

Of course, one question is pertinent here: can we be sure that what happens at the macroscopic scale is/will be exactly replicated at the microscopic scale, with the same forces and phenomena at play?

The short answer is 'no', we can't assume that what happens at the macroscopic scale is exactly replicated at the microscopic scale – but this doesn't mean the study's findings aren't applicable to the waves we see in water bodies.

At the macroscopic scale, say, in a 100-m flume, gravity and inertia dominate whereas at nanometric scales, like the 6.7-nm helium films in the study, gravity becomes negligible; instead, van der Waals forces and surface tension dominate. So although both systems can be modelled by shallow-water hydrodynamics, the effective gravitational acceleration is replaced by a van der Waals term in the corresponding equation – in this case, the Korteweg-De Vries (KdV) equation. However, the equation's form itself doesn't change.

Put another way, both microscopic and macroscopic waves are governed by the same mechanics; it's just that the physical constants are different and the equation has different terms that dominate.

One of these constants is the Ursell number, which dictates how hydrodynamic behaviour scales nonlinearly with depth and amplitude. This is why shrinking a system by a factor of a million doesn't linearly scale its dynamics. Instead, the system is 'pushed' into an entirely different regime.

Second, at the microscale, the helium film is a quantum fluid, not a classical substance. Its viscosity vanishes, heat flow drives its motion (via the fountain effect), and strange phases of matter like quantised vortices become possible. None of these exist in classical macroscopic fluids. Similarly, the crystal cavities also modify how waves disperse, producing wave behaviour that's impossible in natural flumes.

However, researchers aren't claiming their experiment reproduces the exact same physical forces as in a macroscopic water flume but that their waves-on-a-chip setup obeys the same (KdV) hydrodynamic equation in form.

Specifically, what allows them to compare the superfluid flumes and a real oceanic flume isn't identical forces–which don't exist– but the mathematical equivalence of the governing equation.

In the study, the team worked under limiting conditions where the fluid's depth is low, also known as the shallow-water limit. In this regime, the dynamics governing the waves depend on three dimensionless parameters: the Ursell number, the aspect ratio (ratio of depth to length), and the dispersion coefficients in the KdV equation. If two systems share the same three forms of these parameters, then, even if one involves gravity and the other involves van der Waals forces, their wave evolution should be dynamically similar.

Put another way, the chip experiment wasn't meant to reproduce a tsunami in miniature but to reproduce the same mathematics of nonlinear wave evolution. And in the paper, the researchers described three things they did to prove they did so in a correct way.

First, they used a custom Euler solver, which is a full hydrodynamic model with nonlinear behaviour due to van der Waals forces, and the KdV equation to model the experiment and found that it could do so correctly.

Second, they plotted the Ursell number in their microscopic experiment and found that it curved up to cross a value of 100 million. Thus they could conclude that their experiment was hydrodynamically equivalent to, or exceeded, what they might have seen in a large flume.

Third, they observed wave steepening, shock-front formation, and soliton fission – which is the very sequence of formations that the theory predicts for waves of large amplitude in shallow water.

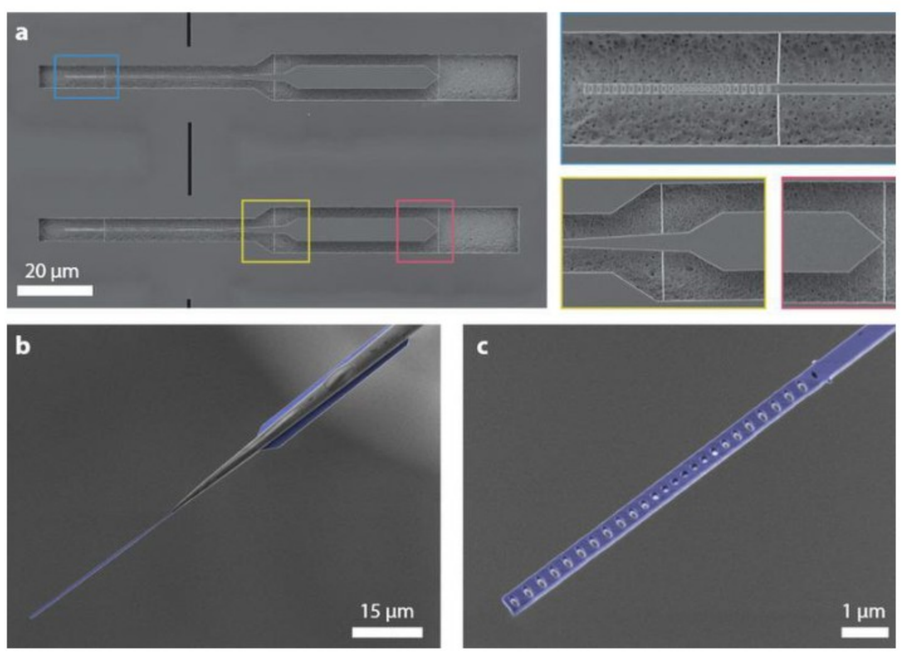
Finally, overall, the authors of the new study have been careful not to say "we've shrunk the ocean onto a chip." Instead their paper repeatedly emphasises the differences between the two scales: that gravity is replaced by van der Waals acceleration, that dispersion is engineered using light (rather than naturally), and that the fluid is a superfluid with zero viscosity.

Toolkit to explore

The second advantage was that the system was very easy to control. The researchers could finely tune the waves' properties by adjusting the laser power and the thickness of the superfluid film. They could also modify the chip's design to create different channel shapes or place obstacles in the waves' way, providing a toolkit to explore complex fluidic phenomena.

Finally, according to the study paper, the work also pushes the boundaries of optomechanics – the study of how light and mechanical motion interact. The extreme nonlinearities observed go beyond the gentle perturbations typically studied in this field, opening a new regime of nonlinear dynamics.

mukunth.v@thehindu.co.in



Top-left: Scanning electron micrograph top-view of two fabricated devices on a silicon on insulator chip. Right: Zoom-ins of the boxed regions; b) False colour scanning electron microscope image showing the silicon superfluid wave flume (blue) glued to a silica optical fibre taper (grey); c) Zoomed-in view showing the silicon photonic crystal cavity at the end of the device. The silicon waveguide is around 500 nm wide and 220 nm thick. ARXIV:2504.13001V1

In a normal water wave, the crest moves faster than the trough, causing the wave to lean forward and eventually break. MARK HARPUR/UNSPLASH

A street in Santiago de Cuba before Hurricane Melissa made landfall on October 28. AFP

Hurricane Melissa a 'beast' among a string of monster Atlantic storms

Agence France Presse

Hurricane Melissa, which struck Jamaica with record-tying 296 kmph winds on October 28, was a beast that stood out as extreme even in a record number of monster storms spawned over the last decade in a superheated Atlantic Ocean.

While more storms these days are undergoing rapid intensification – gaining 356 kmph in wind speed over 24 hours – Melissa did a lot more than that. It achieved what's called extreme rapid intensification – gaining at least 92 kmph over 24 hours. In fact, Melissa turbocharged by about 112 kmph during a 24-hour period last week and had an unusual second round of rapid intensification that spun it up to 280 kmph, scientists said.

"It's been ... just a beast of a storm," Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach said.

When Melissa came ashore it tied strength records for Atlantic hurricanes making landfall, both in wind speed and barometric pressure, which is a key measurement that meteorologists use, said Mr. Klotzbach and University of Miami hurricane researcher Brian McNoldy. The pressure measurement tied the deadly 1935 Labour Day storm in Florida, while the 296 kmph wind speed equalled marks set that year and during 2019's Hurricane Dorian. Hurricane Allen reached 304 kmph winds in 1980, but not at landfall.

Melissa turbocharged by 112 kmph in 24-hours last week and had an unusual second round of rapid intensification that spun it up to 280 kmph

Usually when major hurricanes brew, they get so strong that the wind twirling in the centre of the storm gets so intense and warm in places that the eyewall needs to grow, so a small one collapses and a bigger one forms. That's called an eyewall replacement cycle, Mr. McNoldy said, and it usually weakens the storm at least temporarily.

Melissa showed some signs of being ready to do this, but it never did, Mr. McNoldy and Klotzbach said.

Another weird thing is that Melissa sat offshore of mountainous Jamaica for a while before coming inland. Usually mountains, even on islands, tear up storms, but not Melissa.

"It was next to a big mountainous island, and it doesn't even notice it's there," Mr. McNoldy said in amazement.

Warm water is the fuel for hurricanes. The hotter and deeper the water, the more a storm can power up. But when storms sit over one area for a while – which Melissa did for days on end – it usually brings cold water up from the depths, choking off the fuel a bit. But that didn't happen to Melissa, said Bernadette Woods Placky, chief meteorologist for Climate Central, a combination of scientists and journalists who study climate change.

"It's wild how almost easily this was allowed to just keep venting," Ms. Placky said. "This had enough warm water at such high levels and it just kept going."

Melissa rapidly intensified during five six-hour periods as it hit the extreme rapid intensification level, Mr. McNoldy said. And then it jumped another 56 kmph, and "that's extraordinary," he said.

For meteorologists following it, "just your stomach would sink as you'd see these updates coming in," Ms. Placky said.

"We were sitting at work on Monday morning with our team, and you just saw the numbers just start jumping again, 175. And then again this morning (Tuesday), 185," Ms. Placky said.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Don't buy second-hand phones without proper papers: Police Commissioner

Buyers of undocumented phones often lose both their money and the device, says Seemant Kumar Singh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh on Wednesday urged the public to exercise caution while purchasing second-hand mobile phones without proper documentation, warning that such transactions could lead to both financial and legal trouble. "Buyers of undocumented phones often lose both their money and the device – the money goes to the thieves, while the phones are seized by the police once identified as stolen," he said.

In a recent special drive, the Bengaluru police recovered 1,950 mobile phones worth ₹3.02 crore.

He was elaborating on a recent special drive over the last month-and-a-half, in which the city police have recovered 1,950 mobile phones worth ₹3.02 crore which were robbed or lost in Bengaluru.

Elaborating on the special drive, Mr. Singh said that officials from the Command Centre tracked down a total of 895 stolen and lost mobile phones through the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal, which helps track devices using their IMEI numbers. The cases were probed based on the complaints through the Karnataka State Police App and reports filed at various police stations across the city from March 2024, he said.

Once the IMEI of a lost or stolen phone is uploaded to the CEIR portal, an alert is triggered whenever the device is switched on with any SIM card, allowing police to identify and contact the user to recover the handset.

According to officials, most of those found in possession of stolen phones had unknowingly bought them from second-hand sellers. Of the total phones traced, 765 were recovered in Bengaluru.

Meanwhile, the city police also busted multiple mobile snatcher gangs in the city as part of the special drive.

Following a significant number of mobile snatching incidents being reported in and around K.R. Market area, the probe was transferred to the Central Crime Branch (CCB), who have recently busted a gang of six youths and recovered a whopping 422 mobile phones from them.

The accused have been identified as Arbaz, Chandrashekar, Afroz, Madan, Shanthakumar, and Mohammed Yasin. According to the police, the gang used to target pedestrians moving around the market area and snatch mobile phones while riding bikes and also stole phones from passengers inside buses. They sold the stolen phones in the grey market for throwaway prices to fund their vices, the police said.

The remaining 633 mobile phones were recovered by various police stations seized probing mobile theft cases registered with them over the past month and a half.

In one such case, alert the Amrutahalli Police who went to check a suspicious vehicle below Hebbal Flyover recovered several stolen mobiles.

Man killed for objecting to non-veg food during festival

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Chikkajala police have arrested a labourer for beating his co-worker to death over a trivial row over cooking non-vegetarian food at an under construction building they were living, during Chhath Puja. The incident occurred at Navarathna Agrahara, Jala Hobli where the accused Radheshyam Chauhan and deceased Shambu Thanti, 48, were working.

According to the police Shambu Thanti, hailing from Bihar was observing Chhath Puja for a week and objected to Radheshyam cooking non-vegetarian food during this period.

Argument ensued

The duo had an argument on Sunday night and complained to Surendra Pandita, their senior, about the issue. Pandita reportedly pacified the duo and told them that he would sort out the issue the next day.

However, on Monday when Pandita called Shambu Thanti the next day he was not answering calls.

He sent other workers to check on him, who found him lying dead in a pool of blood and Radheshyam missing.

The accused reportedly called one of his co-workers and confessed that unable to bear the harassment and fight with Shambhu Thanti over non-vegetarian food, he had beaten him to death while he was sleeping, and even strangled him to make sure he was dead.

The Chikkajala police have registered a case of murder and have arrested Radheshyam.

Man thrashed for bid to desecrate idol

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Tension prevailed in Devara Beesanahalli in Marathahalli on Tuesday when a 45-year-old man from another community walked into a temple's sanctum sanctorum and allegedly tried to desecrate the idol. He was caught, tied to a tree, beaten up and later handed over to the police.

The accused runs a footwear repair shop in Devara Beesanahalli. Moments before the temple incident, he was seen near a medical shop, shouting religious slogans. When locals confronted him, he ran toward the nearby Venugopalaswamy Temple, shouting slogans and creating a ruckus. He allegedly entered the sanctum sanctorum wearing slippers, carrying a small bottle containing oil-like liquid and attempted to pull the idol down.

Caregivers Day celebrated

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Commissioner for Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Das Suryavamshi, emphasised that the government and society must encourage the welfare and development of caregivers for special children.

IIM MUMBAI & IIT DELHI
announces admissions to the Post Graduate Program PGDEx-VLFM
VIKSIT BHARAT @2047
PGDEx-VLFM
ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA FOR EXECUTIVES IN VISIONARY LEADERSHIP FOR MANUFACTURING (PGDEx-VLFM) 2026-27
Last date of receipt of online application is 29th November 2025
ONE YEAR FULL TIME RESIDENTIAL program for engineers having 4-10 years of experience in the manufacturing domain
Industry sponsored candidates are encouraged to apply (limited seats available).
Academic session is expected to commence from : mid - April 2026
For queries : vlfm@iimmumbai.ac.in
Details available at www.iimmumbai.ac.in

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EXHIBIT/VISIT
IPVS INDUSTRIAL PUMPS, VALVES & SYSTEMS
Industrial Pumps, Valves & Systems Exhibition
13 | 14 | 15 NOV 2025 | CHENNAI
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS
• 100+ Exhibitors • Latest Products & Innovations
• 5000+ Trade Visitors • B2B Conference
• Buyer-Seller Meet • 7+ Countries Delegation
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HON'BLE SUPREME COURT MONITORED
HOUSING PROJECTS THROUGH LD. COURT RECEIVER
Executed by
NBCC (India) Limited
NBCC A Navratna CPSE
ASPIRE
Bulk Sale of inventory through e-Auction
Pre-bid meeting 31.10.2025 at Block-A, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi

Aspire Silicon City
Ph-IV, Sec-76, Noida, UP
- Inventory-3BHK & 4BHK spacious apartments with modern amenities.
- Near Spectrum Mall, Noida and nearest metro-station is Noida Sec-50 (Aqua line) & Sec.-76 metro and Anand Vihar ISBT & Railway station-25 min.

ASPIRE SILICON CITY

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Aspire Leisure Park
Techzone-IV, Greater Noida (W),UP
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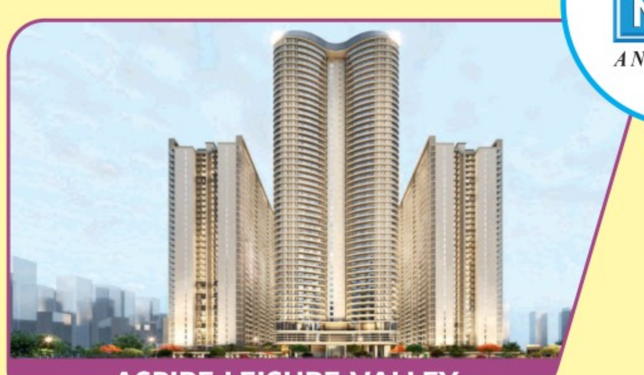
- Near D-mart and Anand Vihar ISBT & Railway station-30 min.

Aspire Leisure Valley
Techzone-IV, Greater Noida (W), UP
- Inventory-3BHK & 4BHK spacious apartments with modern amenities.
- Near D-mart and Anand Vihar ISBT & Railway station-35 min.


ASPIRE LEISURE VALLEY

ASPIRE CENTURIAN PARK

Aspire Centurian Park
Techzone-IV, Greater Noida (W), UP
- Inventory-3BHK & 4BHK spacious apartments with modern amenities.
- Near D-mart and Anand Vihar ISBT & Railway station-30 min.

Last date of submission of EMD-11.11.2025. EMD Rs. 9.70 Cr. to Rs. 21.38 Cr.
8 packages Ranging from Rs. 485 Cr. to Rs. 1,069 Cr.
E-auction will be held on 12.11.2025
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For more details, please visit our website: www.nbccindia.in I www.receiveramrapali.in
9772907414
A BG-BGE

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The share by which Delhi's wetlands have shrunk in 30 years

9 In per cent. A study conducted by Delhi University along with HCL Tech and Terna Global Business School has found that some districts, including South Delhi, have seen a drop of almost 97% per cent in their wetland area, due to increasing construction and pollution in the national capital. PTI

Number of Naxalites who surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur

51 As many as 51 Naxalites, 20 of them carrying a collective bounty of ₹66 lakh, surrendered in the Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh on Wednesday, police said. The cadres have returned to the mainstream citing that they were impressed by the State government's rehabilitation policy. PTI

Number of Gazans killed in overnight Israeli strikes

60 The development came after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered the military to conduct "powerful strikes" over Gaza, accusing Hamas of violating the ceasefire. Hamas said in response that that it would delay handing over the body of another hostage. PTI

Indians to be repatriated from Thailand after raids

500 More than 1,500 people from 28 countries had crossed into Thailand between the start of the crackdown on one of the most notorious scam hubs, KK Park in Myanmar, and Tuesday evening. Many people staffing the fraud factories say they were trafficked. AFP

Number of people killed in the drug raids in Rio, Brazil

64 As many as 2,500 heavily armed officers, backed by armoured vehicles, helicopters and drones took part in the operation targeting Brazil's main drug-trafficking gang in two poor neighbourhoods in northern Rio. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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What is China's complaint against India at WTO?

What is the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme in India? Which three specific PLIs does China oppose? What are the World Trade Organization's rules when it comes to subsidies? What does the Subsidies and Countervailing Measures agreement state?

EXPLAINER

Prabhash Ranjan

The story so far:
China has filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization (WTO) against India. It alleges that India is providing subsidies, as part of the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, for the development of advanced chemistry cell (ACC) batteries; for boosting the auto sector; and for facilitating the production of Electric Vehicles, in contravention of WTO law.

What is the PLI scheme?
India launched the PLI scheme in 2020 to give a fillip to Indian manufacturing. This scheme provides financial incentives based on incremental sales to strategic industries; aims to bolster India's position in global value chains; and integrates medium and small-scale industries into the industrial production process through backward linkages. The three specific PLI schemes that China has challenged are – the PLI scheme which aims to incentivise the establishment of giga-scale manufacturing capabilities of ACC batteries in India; the scheme for the auto industry, which seeks to buttress the manufacturing of Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT) products in India, encompassing both vehicles and their components; and third, a scheme to promote EV manufacturing by attracting global EV manufacturers to the country.

What is China's complaint?
China alleges that the three PLI schemes provide financial benefits or subsidies to companies operating in India contingent on Domestic Value Addition (DVA). For instance, under the PLI scheme for the auto sector, one of the conditions for eligibility to get financial benefits is that there must be a 50% DVA. Likewise, one of the salient features of the PLI scheme for ACC batteries is that the beneficiary must ensure a DVA of 25%. The Chinese argue that the DVA requirements under these PLI schemes incentivise companies to use domestic goods rather than imported goods, discriminating against Chinese goods in the Indian market.

Subsidy wars: The World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva. AFP

What is the law on subsidies in WTO?
While providing industrial subsidies to boost domestic industry is a sovereign right of states, WTO law ensures that these subsidies are not provided in a manner that jeopardises the international trade of other countries by ushering in unfair competition. Unfair competition may arise from subsidies that confer an artificial advantage on industries for exporting or competing with imported products. Consequently, the grant of industrial subsidies is regulated by the Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM) agreement of the WTO. Article 1 of the SCM agreement defines a subsidy as a financial contribution by a government or a public body that confers a benefit. The subsidy should also be specific.

The SCM agreement divides subsidies into three categories – prohibited subsidies, actionable subsidies, and non-actionable subsidies. Prohibited subsidies are forbidden by definition and are generally of two types: export subsidies and Import Substitution (IS) subsidies. Export subsidies are contingent on export performance, and IS subsidies, as defined in Article 3.1(b) of the SCM agreement, refer to subsidies contingent upon the use of domestic goods over imported goods. Thus, if a country promises a financial contribution to a specific industry on the condition that it use domestic goods or goods produced locally, rather than imported goods, it would constitute a prohibited subsidy.

Do IS subsidies violate other laws?
An IS subsidy will also breach two other WTO legal provisions. First is the national treatment obligation, codified in Article III.4 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which obligates countries to ensure that their domestic laws do not treat imported products less favourably than their domestic products; and second, is Article 2.1 of the Trade Related Investment Measures (TRIMs) Agreement which states that no country shall impose any TRIM that is inconsistent with its national treatment obligations enshrined in GATT's Article III. The TRIMs agreement contains a specific illustration of a prohibited trade-related investment measure. This illustration pertains to local content requirements which incentivise the use of domestically produced goods. Since an IS subsidy gives preference to domestic over foreign goods, it constitutes as a proscribed TRIM under the WTO law.

China alleges that India's three PLI schemes are IS subsidies. However, it is critical to note that the DVA milestones in India's PLI scheme do not automatically translate to local content requirements. Value addition at the domestic level can occur in multiple ways, and not just through the use of domestic goods. The analysis of the DVA component in these three PLI schemes must thus consider a complex set of facts.

What happens next?
The first step in resolving a dispute at the WTO is through consultations. Thus, India and China will try to resolve this matter amicably. If this does not occur, the dispute will proceed to adjudication by a three-member ad hoc WTO panel. The WTO's appellate mechanism, the Appellate Body, has remained incapacitated since December 2019. Thus, if the WTO panel's decision is appealed, it would mean postponing the adjudication of the dispute till the time the Appellate Body is resurrected. The practical implication is that the status quo remains, and a country can continue with its impugned measures.

Prabhash Ranjan is Professor and Vice Dean (Research), Jindal Global Law School. Views are personal.

THE GIST

- India's PLI scheme provides financial incentives based on incremental sales to strategic industries; aims to bolster India's position in global value chains; and integrates medium and small-scale industries into the industrial production process through backward linkages.
- While providing industrial subsidies to boost domestic industry is a sovereign right of states, WTO law ensures that these subsidies are not provided in a manner that jeopardises the international trade of other countries by ushering in unfair competition.
- The SCM agreement divides subsidies into three categories — prohibited subsidies, actionable subsidies, and non-actionable subsidies.

How do cyclones form and how are they measured?

How can high wind shear disrupt the formation of a cyclone? What is an eyewall?

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:
If you think of a cyclone as a machine, it would be an incredibly powerful entity – an engine that draws heat from the earth's tropical waters to drive destructive winds, heavy rainfall, and storm surges. Similar storms are known variously as hurricanes in the Atlantic and eastern Pacific Oceans, and typhoons in the western Pacific Ocean.

How do cyclones form?
A tropical cyclone begins as an area of low pressure, often associated with clusters of thunderstorms. For such a disturbance to develop into a cyclone, several atmospheric and oceanic conditions must come together. The most important is warm sea surface temperature, generally above 26.5°C and up to a depth of at least 50 m. When moist air near such a water surface rises, it releases its latent heat, cools, and condenses to form clouds. The released heat warms the surrounding air, causing it to rise even further and drawing in more moist air from below, setting up a self-reinforcing cycle of convection.

A second important condition is that the atmosphere must be unstable, that is, rising air must continue to rise rather than being forced back down, and there must be a sufficient Coriolis force (a deflection of circulating air due to the earth's rotation, causing it to curve right in the Northern Hemisphere and left in the Southern Hemisphere) to induce rotation. As the Coriolis effect is weakest at the equator, cyclones rarely form within about five degrees of latitude from it. At the same time, the vertical wind shear, which is the difference in wind speed and direction between the lower and the upper levels of the atmosphere, must be low. High wind shear can disrupt a cyclone's organised circulation and keep it from building in strength.

As the cyclone develops, a well-defined centre called the 'eye' may form. This is a calm, clear region surrounded by a ring of towering thunderstorms that produce the most intense winds and heaviest rainfall, called the eyewall.

Air spirals in towards the low-pressure centre at the surface and rises rapidly near the eyewall, while at higher altitudes it flows outwards, completing the circulation.

How are cyclones classified?
Since the storm draws energy from the ocean through evaporation, it can intensify as long as it remains over warm water. Cyclones are primarily classified by their maximum sustained wind speed and central pressure. Different ocean basins use slightly different classification schemes but the principle is the same. In the North Indian Ocean, the India Meteorological Department classification ranges from a 'depression' (31-49 km/hr) to 'super cyclonic storm' (>222 km/hr).

For measurements, meteorologists use ground-based observations, aircraft reconnaissance, satellite data, and ocean buoys. Satellites play a crucial role in monitoring cyclones over remote ocean areas: infrared images help estimate the temperature of cloud tops, indicating storm intensity, while visible and microwave sensors reveal structure, rainfall distribution, and eye formation.

In the North Atlantic, specialised aircraft called hurricane hunters fly directly into storms to measure wind speeds, pressure, humidity, and temperature. Instruments called dropsondes are released into the storm, transmitting data as they fall. In the Indian Ocean, satellites and automated buoys provide most of the data.

How well are cyclones forecast?
Forecasting the path and intensity of cyclones remains a complex challenge. Sophisticated numerical weather models simulate atmospheric and oceanic conditions, but even small errors in initial data can lead to large uncertainties. Advances in computing power, remote sensing, and data assimilation have improved forecasts significantly over the last few decades. Today, most meteorological agencies can predict a cyclone's track three to five days in advance with reasonable accuracy.

THE GIST

- A tropical cyclone begins as an area of low pressure, often associated with clusters of thunderstorms.
- Since the storm draws energy from the ocean through evaporation, it can intensify as long as it remains over warm water.
- Sophisticated numerical weather models simulate atmospheric and oceanic conditions, but even small errors in initial data can lead to large uncertainties.

Water Resources Department
Advanced Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management - (ACIWRM),
#1/1, 1st Floor, KSFC Bhavan, Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru - 560052
Phone: +91-80-22262042/43, e-mail: registrar@aciwrm.org

No.EIC/ACIWRM/ AE-3/Vehicle Tender/2025-26/295 Date: 29.10.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal only)

On behalf of Government of Karnataka, Advanced Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management (ACIWRM) under Water Resources Department, invites Short term Tender for "Supply of Vehicles on hire basis to ACIWRM, Bengaluru for 12 months" through outsource in Two cover system from eligible Tenderer/Agency/Firm. The amount put to tender is Rs.1299637.50/- (incl GST), Tender No. WRD/2025-26/SE0102. Tender invited through KPP portal available from **29.10.2025 (5:00 p.m.) till 07.11.2025 (5:00 p.m.).** For more details, visit e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Any clarification can be sought by contacting this office.

Sd/-
Registrar/Engineer-In-Chief
ACIWRM, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/RO3490/AAPL/2025-26

Karnataka Urban Water Supply & Drainage Board
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER DHARWAD
Sir.M. Vishveshvarayya Road, Jalamandali Compound, Dharwad-580 001
Phone No: 0836-2447090, E-mail: kwbcen@ gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Tender for the following work is invited (two tender document system) through e-Procurement portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from the eligible Agency / contractors who satisfy the Technical & Financial eligibility criteria. This office Tender Notification No: 1670 Dated: 24-10-2025. Providing Water Supply Distribution System to Zone-2 and Timmapur Ashray colony at Zone-1 in Mudhol city under Nagarothana Phase-3. (Lump sum Tender- No Variation) INDENTNO.KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT/419. For further information visit e-procurement portal or Office of the Chief Engineer, K.U.W.S & D. Board, Dharwad may be contacted.

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER,
KUWS & D BOARD, DHARWAD.

DIPR/Dwd/795/2025-26/DeshpandePublicity

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

NOTIFICATION

Bengaluru, 17th October 2025

S.O.4746(E) - In exercise of the powers conferred by clause 37(A) of Section 2 of the Railways Act, 1989 (Act no. 24 of 1989) the Ministry of Railway (South Western Railway, Construction Organization, Bengaluru Cantonment) hereby notifies the project, as "Special Railway Project" mentioned in the table below, in the State of Karnataka for providing National Infrastructure for a Public Purpose with effect from date of publication of the notification in the Official Gazette.

TABLE

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Village	Taluk	District
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	Construction of additional loopline on Down main line side at Kyatsandra Goods station (KDAG).	Basavapatna and Thimlapura	Tumakuru	Tumakuru

No.: W.271/CN/BNC/2025-26/Land SRP/1727

(Pardeep Puri)
Chief Engineer-III/Construction/
South Western Railway, Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/587/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

AYUSH DEPARTMENT
Dhanvanthri Road, Bangalore-560 009.
Phone: 080-22876553, Fax: 080-22340139,
e-mail: directoraryush.eproc@gmail.com

No: AYUSH/85/NAM/2025-26/Call-2 Date: 29-10-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

The e-tender (Call-2) in Two Document System invited from the Tender inviting Authority and Accounts Officer, Department of AYUSH, Bengaluru for the Supply of Hemeopathy Medicines to Government Hospitals and Ayush District Hospitals, Dispensaries & Units under NAM scheme as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999-2000 Rules there under.

Calendar of Events

1.	The Tender document will be available from	**29.10.2025 at 5:30 p.m.**
2.	Last date for uploading tender documents through KPP Portal	**29.11.2025 at 5:00 p.m.**
3.	Date of opening of Technical Bid	**03.12.2025 at 11:30 a.m.**

Sd/- Accounts Officer (I/C) Chairman
(Tender Inviting Authority)
Directorate of AYUSH, Dhanvanthri Road,
Bengaluru-09.

DIPR/CP/RO3478/AAPL/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I KARNATAKA
4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengalure

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.

RC/173/2023 **15-02-2024**

Bank of Baroda
Versus
Sri Nandeeshappa

In the Matter of:
(Ch-1): Bank of Baroda (Erstwhile Vijaya Bank)
Gowribidanur Branch, Gowribidanur-561208.
Chikkaballapura District.
...Applicant Bank / Certificate Holder

Versus

To:
(CD-1): Sri Nandeeshappa S/o Sri Chikkavenkatappa
Residing at: Dinamagattanahalli Village, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapura District.
(CD-2): Sri B.S.Vishveshvaraiah S/o Sri Shankarappa
Residing at: G.Bommasandra Village, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapura District.
...Defendants/Certificate Holder

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, **DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALURU (DRT 1) in OA/67/2018** an amount of **Rs.13,44,573/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Forty Four Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Three Only)** along with cost expenses and future interest @ 10.50% p.a. (Exclusive of 2% penal interest) Compound Interest with yearly rests w.e.f. **05/08/2016** till realization has costs of **Rs.16,255/- (Rupes Sixteen Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Five Only)** has become due against you (Jointly and severally/Fully/Limited).

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.

3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.

4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on **28.03.2024 at 10:30 am** for further Proceedings

5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:

(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.

(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: **15th February 2024.**

Sd/- Recovery Officer-I

UNION BANK OF INDIA
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Regional Office : 2254, Kousalya, 3rd Floor, Vinoba Road, Mysuru-570005

E-AUCTION NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised officer of **Union Bank of India** (secured Creditor) will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is basis"** on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder.

Union Bank Of India, Ramapura Branch, Ramapura Gramapanchayathi, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara – 562160 Mob.: 8008644044, Mail Id: ubin0918407@unionbankofindia.bank.in

Name And Address Of The Borrower, Co-Borrower And Guarantor:
1) Mr. Yelle Gowda, Ramapura Village And Post, Channapatna Tq, Ramanagara-562160
2) Mrs. Shashi, Ramapura Village And Post, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara – 562160
Amount due : Rs. 6,85,083-00 as on 30-09-2025 with further interest, cost & expenses.
Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold: All The Part And Parcel Of Residential House In The Name Of **Smt Shashi,** Bearing Property / Khaneshumar No. 256/184, Ramapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara Dist. **Measuring East-West : 22 Feet, North-South : 43.5 Feet, Total: 957 Square feet. Bounded On The East:** Road, **West:** House Of Pyasegowda, **North:** Mairgowda's Malavaiah Vacant Space, **South:** Houses Of Puttamma.

Reserve Price :
Rs. 15,39,495-00 (Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Thirty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Five Only)
Earnest Money To Be Deposited :
Rs. 1,53,950-00 (Rupees One Lakhs Fifty Three Thousand Nine Hundred And Fifty Only)

Date and time of E-Auction : Date: 14-11-2025 From 12.00 NOON to 5.00 PM (with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)
Last date for submission of EMD : On or before the commencement of e-Auction.
E-auction website- https://baanknet.com

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale and registration and login and bidding rules visit : please refer to the link provided : https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/auction-property/view-auction-property.aspx and www.unionbankofindia.co.in

Date : 30-10-2025 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Mysuru **Union Bank of India.**

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MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

NOTIFICATION

Bengaluru, 14th October 2025

S.O. 4668(E) - In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 20A of the Railway Act 1989 (24 of 1989) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the central Government (Ministry of Railways, South western Railway, Construction Organization, Bengaluru Cantonment) after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which has been given in the schedule annexed hereto, is required for the execution of the 'Special Railway Project', in lieu of Level crossing No. 56 for construction of Two lane ROB with Service Road", in the state of Karnataka, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land:

Any person interested in the said land may, within Thirty days from the date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette, raise objection to the acquisition and use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of Section 20D of the said Act:

Every such objection shall be made to the 'Competent Authority and Special Land Acquisition Officer, Tumakuru-Rayadurga and Tumakuru-Davanagere Railway project, Tumakuru' for ROB / RUB's in lieu of level crossing No. 56 for construction of Two lane ROB with Service Road in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections:

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of Section 20D of the said Act shall be final:

The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid Office of the Competent Authority and Special Land Acquisition Officer, Tumakuru-Rayadurga and Tumakuru-Davanagere Railway project, Tumakuru.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling with in the proposed Special Railway Project of bridges in lieu of Level crossing No. 56 for construction of Two-lane ROB with Service Road in the State of Karnataka.

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Owner Name	Enjoyment	Acquired Extent (In Acres - Guntas)				Classi-fication of land
				Total (A-G)	A Kharab (A-G)	B Kharab (A-G)	Balance (A-G)	
DISTRICT: TUMAKURU HOBLI: NITTUR								**TALUK: GUBBI VILLAGE: MATHIGATTA**
1	57/6	N.B. Basavalingaiah S/o Basappa	N.B. Basavalingaiah S/o Basappa	0-01	-	-	0-01	Dry
2	57/6	N.B. Basavalingaiah S/o Basappa	N.B. Basavalingaiah S/o Basappa	0-01 1/2	-	-	0-01 1/2	Dry
				0-02 1/2	-	-	0-02 1/2	
DISTRICT: TUMAKURU HOBLI: NITTUR								**TALUK: GUBBI VILLAGE: BENACHAGERE**
1	40 / Block 1	Government Land	Chikkanna S/o Kenchaiah, Kariyamma	0-09	-	-	0-08 3/4	Dry
2	40 / Block 2	Government Land	Gowramma W/o Late Doddaiah	0-03 1/2	-	-	0-03 1/2	Dry
3	40 / Block 3	Government Land	Veerabhadraiah, Bhagyamma	0-04 3/4	-	0-00 1/4	0-04 1/2	Dry
4	41	Lakshmidevamma W/o Late Seebaiah, Veeranna S/o Late Seebaiah, Doddaiah S/o Late Seebaiah	Lakshmidevamma W/o Late Seebaiah, Veeranna S/o Late Seebaiah, Doddaiah S/o Late Seebaiah	0-01 3/4	-	-	0-01 3/4	Dry
5	41	Lakshmidevamma W/o Late Seebaiah, Veeranna S/o Late Seebaiah	Lakshmidevamma W/o Late Seebaiah, Veeranna S/o Late Seebaiah, Doddaiah S/o Late Seebaiah	0-01 3/4	-	-	0-01 3/4	Dry
6	42	Revaiah S/o Narasaiah	Revaiah S/o Narasaiah	0-01 1/4	-	-	0-01 1/4	Dry
7	42	Revaiah S/o Narasaiah	Revaiah S/o Narasaiah	0-01 1/4	-	-	0-01 1/4	Dry
8	43	Government Land	Revaiah S/o Narasaiah	0-02	-	-	0-02	Dry
9	43	Government Land	Revaiah S/o Narasaiah	0-02	-	-	0-02	Dry
10	54	B.S. Linganna S/o Shivanna, S. Bhagya W/o Siddalingaiah	Gowramma D/o Doddaiah	0-00 3/4	-	-	0-00 3/4	Dry
11	54	B.S. Linganna S/o Shivanna, S. Bhagya W/o Siddalingaiah	Lokesh S/o Revanna	0-04	-	-	0-04	Dry
12	54	B.S. Linganna S/o Shivanna, S. Bhagya W/o Siddalingaiah	Siddaramaiah S/o Revanna	0-05	-	-	0-05	Dry
13	54	B.S. Linganna S/o Shivanna, S. Bhagya W/o Siddalingaiah	Suvarnamma W/o Mahalingaiah, Siddaramaiah S/o Mahalingaiah	0-03	-	-	0-03	Dry
14	54	B.S. Linganna S/o Shivanna, S. Bhagya W/o Siddalingaiah	Suvarnamma W/o Mahalingaiah, Siddaramaiah S/o Mahalingaiah	0-03 1/2	-	-	0-03 1/2	Dry
15	54	B.S. Linganna S/o Shivanna, S. Bhagya W/o Siddalingaiah	Lokamma, Narasimharmurthy S/o Late Kalaiah	0-01 1/4	-	-	0-01 1/4	Dry
16	121	Mathiga S/o Nanja, Rangaswamaiah S/o Chinnaiah, Shivanna S/o Chinnaiah, Chandraiah S/o Chinnaiah Kenchaiah S/o Rangaiah, Ranganarasamma W/o Gangaiah	Bhagyamma W/o Siddalingaiah	0-02 1/4	-	0-01 3/4	0-00 1/2	Dry
17	121	Mathiga S/o Nanja, Rangaswamaiah S/o Chinnaiah, Shivanna S/o Chinnaiah, Chandraiah S/o Chinnaiah, Kenchaiah S/o Rangaiah, Ranganarasamma W/o Gangaiah	Bhagyamma W/o Siddalingaiah	0-02	-	-	0-02	Dry
18	121	Mathiga S/o Nanja, Rangaswamaiah S/o Chinnaiah, Shivanna S/o Chinnaiah, Chandraiah S/o Chinnaiah, Kenchaiah S/o Rangaiah, Rangarasamma W/o Gangaiah	B.S. Linganna S/o Shivanna	0-03 3/4	-	-	0-03 3/4	Dry
19	121	Mathiga S/o Nanja, Rangaswamaiah S/o Chinnaiah, Shivanna S/o Chinnaiah, Chandraiah S/o Chinnaiah, Kenchaiah S/o Rangaiah, Rangarasamma W/o Gangaiah	B.S. Linganna S/o Shivanna	0-05	-	0-00 1/4	0-04 3/4	Dry
20	122	Shivananjaiah S/o Late Basavaiah, Shivanna, Chandraiah S/o Chinnaiah, Rangaswamaiah	Chikkanna S/o Kenchaiah	0-00 1/4	-	-	0-00 1/4	Dry
21	122	Shivananjaiah S/o Late Basavaiah, Shivanna, Chandraiah S/o Chinnaiah, Rangaswamaiah	Chikkanna S/o Kenchaiah	0-00 3/4	-	-	0-00 3/4	Dry
22	122	Shivananjaiah S/o Late Basavaiah, Shivanna, Chandraiah S/o Chinnaiah, Rangaswamaiah	Chikkamma W/o Late Doddaiah	0-00 3/4	-	-	0-00 3/4	Dry
23	122	Shivananjaiah S/o Late Basavaiah, Shivanna, Chandraiah S/o Chinnaiah, Rangaswamaiah	Bhadraiah S/o Kenchaiah	0-00 3/4	-	-	0-00 3/4	Dry
24	122	Shivananjaiah S/o Late Basavaiah, Shivanna, Chandraiah S/o Chinnaiah, Rangaswamaiah	Narasimhaiah S/o Kenchaiah	0-00 3/4	-	-	0-00 3/4	Dry
25	122	Shivananjaiah S/o Late Basavaiah, Shivanna, Chandraiah S/o Chinnaiah, Rangaswamaiah	Ranganarasamma W/o Late Gangaiah	0-01 3/4	-	-	0-01 3/4	Dry
	Total			**1-22 3/4**	**-**	**0-02 1/2**	**1-20 1/4**	

ABSTRACT

Village	Classification of land	Acquired Extent (In Acres – Guntas)			
		Total (A-G)	A Kharab (A-G)	B Kharab (A-G)	Balance (A-G)
Mathighatta	Dry	0-02 1/2	-	-	0-02 1/2
Benachagere	Dry	01-22 3/4	-	0-02 1/2	01-20 1/4
Total		**01-25 1/4**	**-**	**0-02 1/2**	**01-22 3/4**

No. W.271/CN/BNC/2025-26/Land SRP/1727

(Pardeep Puri)
Chief Engineer-III/Construction/
South Western Railway, Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/582/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL THAT, my client **ARVIND A POL** S/o. P.S. Appu Rao, R/at No. 23, 2nd Cross D Souza Layout, Hosakerehalli, R.R. Nagar, Opp to V. Legacy Convention Hall BSK 3rd Stage Bengaluru-560085 Aadhaar No. 2022 1138 0355, do hereby bring to the notice of general public that he has lost **Original Sale deed** No. 3789/1977-78, Book-1, dtd 13.01.1978 registered in the office of the Sub Registrar, Kanaka pura & we are unable to trace the same. In this connection, a Complaint is lodged under Lost Article Report No. 1872881/ 2025 dtd 28.10.2025, in Police Unit: Bengaluru City. If any Person/s who find it, is requested to return us at below mentioned Address within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice. In the event we do not in any manner get any information about the said original Sale deed within the time frame mentioned herein, we shall act upon the Certified Copy of the aforesaid Sale deed, as if, the same is the original.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE & PARCEL of the Land bearing Survey No. 98/2 measuring an extent 1 Acre 21 Guntas Situated at Kagalahalli Village, Harohalli Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk

Sd/- MAHESHA HK, Advocate,
No.12, 1st Flr, No.162/2, J.J. Complex, 18th Crs, MC. Lyt , Vijayangar, B'lore-40 **Mob: 98458-91477**
Arvind A Pol- Mob: 93435-31234

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

ABSTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)

KPCL invites tenders in two cover system through KPP Portal: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works.

1). KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3606, Date: 17.10.2025 for Special Assistance for Operation & Maintenance of Ash Handling Plant of Unit-2 to 4 and Unit-2 to 6 Bulker Silos for a period of One year(And extendable upto one year). Last date for submission of bids: **17.11.2025 upto 16:00Hrs.** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer(AHP-1),** Mobile: **94495 96544.**

2) KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3607, Date: 17.10.2025 for RTPS-Repair of Electric actuators & comprehensive maintenance of Electric actuators. EMD: **Rs. 55,800/-.** Last date for submission of tender: **02.11.2025.** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer(TM-1),** Mobile: **94495 97971,** e-mail: **eetm1rtps@gmail.com**

3) KPCL/2025-26/IND2100,Date: 18.10.2025 for Procurement of Linear Actuators for CHP of RTPS. EMD: **Rs. 28,500/-. 4) KPCL/2025-26/IND 2101, Date: 18.10.2025** for Procurement of Oil Seals for CHP of RTPS. EMD: **Rs. 1,900/-. 5) KPCL/2025-26/IND2103, Date: 18.10.2025** for Procurement of Welding Electrodes for CHP of RTPS. EMD: **Rs.3,100/-. 6) KPCL/2025-26/IND2115, Date: 18.10.2025** for Procurement of Jointing Kits of various sizes. EMD: **Rs. 2,400/-.**

Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders: for Sl. No. 3, 4 & 5 : **03.11.2025, 16:00Hrs.** for Sl. No. 6 : **04.11.2025, 16:00Hrs.** Further details can be had(for Sl. 3 to 6) from the office of the **Executive Engineer(Purchase), RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar - 584170, Raichur District.** Mobile: **94495 97966,** e-mail: **eeprtps@gmail.com.**

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru.

TENDER NOTIFICATION

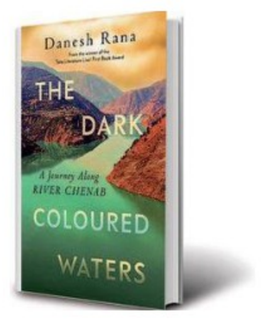
Karnataka Housing Board invite tender from the eligible Pre qualified contractor & willing to Pre qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through KPP portal for below mentioned work.

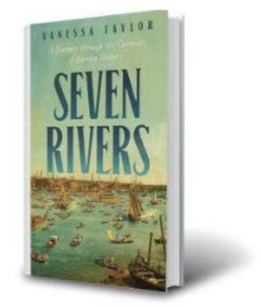
Sl. No.	Name of Work	Work Indent & IFT No.	Amount put to tender (in Rs.)	Last date of submission
1.	Upgradation of existing Government First Grade College Building at Pavagada in Tumakuru District under SDP 2021-22 Scheme (SC Category).	Tender Reference No. KHB/2023-24/BD/ WORK_INDENT 5/Call-2 & IFT No. 37/2023-24 Date: 15.10.2025	38,04,273/-	**03.11.2025 Upto 4.00 PM**

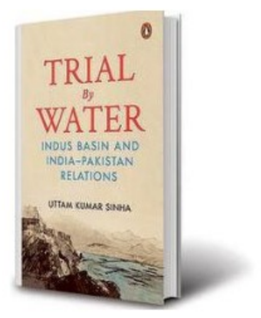
For further information, contact below mentioned Office Address:
Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru.
Telephone No.: 080-22273511 / 080-22100077. Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CP/YC/3489/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, KHB**

BIBLIOGRAPHY







Calm and serene: The Indus river in Leh, Ladakh on October 5. IMRAN NISSAR

The Indus conundrum: when water is both a lifeline and a faultline

Writers are beginning to explain the ramifications of the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty, which was a shared heritage between India and Pakistan. Others map how global warming is impacting the balance in nature, and take stock of the fallout of political decisions on all rivers

Sudhirendar Sharma

Do rivers have stories to tell? As he prepared to map the Chenab, "a river of diplomacy enshrined in the Indus Waters Treaty", Danesh Rana was reminded of a Bashir Badr couplet: "*Agar fursat mile paani ki tahriron ko padh lena, har ek dariya haazaron saal ka afsana likhta hai*. (If you get the time, do read the writing of the water. Every river writes a tale of thousand years.)"

In his memoir and travelogue, *The Dark Coloured Waters* (Juggernaut), Rana, who has served as an IPS officer in the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir, profiles the river with the help of myths, legends, anecdotes and photographs, including one of the highest railway bridges in the world across the Chenab in Reasi district. He also describes the state of the river post-the Pahalgam massacre when India suspended the Indus Water Treaty, brokered by the World Bank in 1960.

"A day after the suspension of the treaty, the sluices at Baghlihar and Salal Hydrolectric Projects were closed," he writes. Soon, the water receded rapidly, "turning the roar of the river to a whimper," and people began to walk across the river.

Is it possible to halt or divert rivers? Rivers are the proverbial natural arteries of ecological systems. They are also worshipped, navigated and dammed. From the ancient ecosystems of Egypt to the sinking cities of Shanghai, rivers are valued differently. No wonder, some of our major river systems are also drying, and ultimately dying. Despite such ambiguity, rivers have remained intertwined with humanity.

Water history

A river determines water history in any region, seasonal variation in its flow being the prime determinant. With the bulk of water in the system coming from rainfall and snow melt in the mountains, a river finally flows to the sea to complete its essential hydrological cycle. Of all rivers that have tried to complete the hydrological cycle, the story of the Indus basin stands as one of modern history's great stories of large-scale environmental transformation. It is also a story of changing relationships between society and the state.

In 2015, Prof. David Gilmartin of North Carolina State University argued that a large-scale environmental history of the Indus basin was yet to be written (*Blood and Water*, University of California Press). The Indus basin's history has long been the subject of historical attention. Although a largely arid region, the Indus basin became one of the globe's most heavily irrigated river basins. Though the flow in the river in the six months from October to March is just 16% of the total annual flow, floods in the summer months have been historically significant.

It is claimed that the Indus basin supplies 80% of the water for Pakistan's irrigated agriculture – that it employs nearly two-thirds of the labour force and generates a quarter of the national GDP. Such a linear relationship has been climatically challenged. Triggered by extremely heavy rains, the July-August 2010 Indus floods affected some 20 million people; two million homes were destroyed; 1.6 million head of livestock died and the economic losses amounted to $43 billion. Though the consensus was that it was a-once-in-a-hundred years event, the fact remains that thanks to rapid global warming, a greater climatic uncertainty surely looms.

Floods and irrigation

No message is more powerfully conveyed by the floods' damage than that massive human development has vastly increased the system's vulnerability. Together with this, large-scale irrigation projects have become a tool to dominate nature. Erik P. Eckholm had noted in the 1970s that "the greater irrigation works in modern times had come to dramatise the dangers inherent in efforts to expand large-scale control over nature without sufficient attention to the 'ecological requisites' of nature itself."

The Indus basin is not bereft of such transformation or vulnerability, and it is in this light that the river ought to be studied. The Indus Water Treaty was a shared heritage between India and Pakistan, till its suspension in April 2025. Consequently, the future of the water-sharing treaty between upper riparian India and lower riparian Pakistan remains shrouded in mystery writes Uttam Kumar Sinha in *Trial by Water* (Penguin, 2025). As per the treaty, the water of the five rivers of Punjab used to flow into the Indus. It may not in future. All these rivers show similar patterns of flow, and their vicissitudes have dictated much of the basin's hydrogeography. However, all this is going to change if river water is diverted (over time) by the upper riparian state.

At this moment, is it apposite to delineate the fundamental hydrogeography of the Indus basin and its complex flow patterns? How water becomes both a lifeline and a faultline in the contested south-Asian landscape is the lingering question. Under the changing situation, can the river be allowed to flow its course to fulfil its ecological obligations of flowing to the sea to complete the hydrological cycle?

Mounting stress

However, to focus solely on bilateral tensions is to miss the larger picture. "The Indus Basin must be seen as a single, interconnected whole – its challenges not confined to legal frameworks or diplomatic flashpoints but rooted in deeper ecological struggles," writes Sinha. With the basin now confronting surging water demand, climate shocks and mounting water stress, the stakes are only intensifying in the future. Can this decades-old treaty evolve to meet a new era of crisis, rekindling its role as a platform for cooperation?

Rivers themselves have always had their own logic: their natural beauties, their floods, droughts, their tendency to silt up, their changes of course, tipping points and disappearances, as Vanessa Taylor puts it in *Seven Rivers* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2025). Rivers have shaped our lives, just as we have shaped theirs. Changing hydro dynamics of the Indus river offers a view of the world where the person and the river are seen in relation to each other. Love, grief, and hope flow through the river.

Sudhirendar Sharma is an independent writer, researcher and academic.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Test your knowledge of the Tsar Bomba, the most powerful nuclear weapon ever created

Prathmesh Kher

QUESTION 1
What was the official Soviet designation for the Tsar Bomba?

QUESTION 2
What was the name of the island where the test was conducted?

QUESTION 3
Who oversaw the Tsar Bomba project at Arzamas-16?

QUESTION 4
What was the CIA's code name for the Tsar Bomba test?

QUESTION 5
When was the Tsar Bomba first tested?

Visual question:
How high did the mushroom cloud from the explosion reach?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Five days after nearly 13 million shares of U.S. stock were sold in one day in 1929, an additional 16 million shares were sold on this day, fuelling the Great Depression. **Ans: Black Tuesday**
2. This country announced that it was ending its one-child policy in 2015. **Ans: China**
3. This Academy Award-nominated screenwriter wrote *Dr. Strangelove* and *Easy Rider*. **Ans: Terry Southern**
4. The group of painters who treated urban scenes realistically. **Ans: Ashcan school**
5. This country was established largely through the efforts of Kemal Atatürk. **Ans: Türkiye**
6. Anarchist Leon Czolgosz was executed for the assassination of this U.S. President. **Ans: William McKinley**
7. This person was the Minister of Propaganda for the German Third Reich under Adolf Hitler. **Ans: Joseph Goebbels**
Visual: Identify this former President of Liberia. **Ans: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**
Early Birds: Erfanally Oosmany| Haridas Pal| Ritviz| Abhay Krishan| Sachin. D

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

Upendran

"That's a nice shirt. Is it new?"
"Yes, it is. My uncle gave it to me yesterday."
"Your uncle? Which one?"
"The one who works for UN."
"You have an uncle who works for the UN?"
"He's been working for UN for over..."
"... the UN.."
"What?"
"Your uncle doesn't work for UN. He works for the UN."
"The UN? But why?"
"Because UN is an abbreviation for United Nations. The general rule is when you make use of an abbreviation for an organisation, you use the definite article the before it. For example, my cousin Saritha wants to work for the CBI."
"I would like to work for the BBC. when I grow up. Is it OK to say that?"
"Sounds good to me. Here's another example. Many of our students who go to the U.S. to study, settle down there."
"Previously, everyone used to go to the U.K. "
"That's true."
"So tell me. Every time we use an abbreviation, we have to use 'the', right?"
"Not necessarily. Take for example NATO."
"It stands for North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, right?"
"Very good! When we use NATO in a sentence, we do not use the before it. For example, I know a few people who work for NATO."
"I don't know much about NATO. Can I say that?"
"You certainly can."
"Why don't we use the before NATO? It's also an abbreviation, isn't it?"
"True, it's an abbreviation. But it's not an abbreviation like BBC. In the case of BBC or UN, we pronounce each and every letter individually."
"Well, yes. I say BBC."
"In the case of NATO, on the other hand, you do not pronounce each letter individually. Instead, you put the four letters together and pronounce it as one word."
"And since it's pronounced as one word, we do not use the before it! Is that what you're implying?"
"Exactly!"
"I see. So, I don't need an article with UNICEF. It stands for United Nations International Children's Educational Fund, doesn't it?"
"Right again! You do not have to use the before UNICEF. Similarly, you do not need the before UNESCO. For example, some people believe that UNESCO will soon close down."
"That's not likely to happen. But I think I am beginning to understand now. When the initial letters of words come together and are pronounced as one word, we do not use the definite article the."
"Exactly! Such words are called acronyms."
"What?"
"Acronym! The 'a' in the first syllable is like the 'a' in 'bat', 'hat' and 'cat'. The 'o' in the second syllable is like the 'a' in 'China'. And the final syllable 'nym' rhymes with 'rim', 'dim' and 'him'. The stress is on the first syllable."
Published in The Hindu on July 21, 1998.

Word of the day

Impugnable: subject to being discredited

Synonym: questionable

Usage: *His impugnable claims were dismissed by the experts.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/impugnablepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /impug'nable/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Safari trips reduced in Bandipur, Nagarahole tiger reserves due to unregulated tourism

Farmers have expressed concern that increased safari trips are causing disturbances to wildlife, resulting in conflict situations in villages outside the forests. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Following frequent human-tiger conflicts around the Bandipur-Nagarahole belt and complaints from stakeholders of unregulated tourism, the number of safari trips has been reduced by one in both the tiger reserves.

Minister's directive

This has come into effect from Tuesday, following a directive by the Minister for Forests, Ecology, and Environment Eshwar B. Khandre.

The Minister said that there was an increase in the tourist footfall in both Bandipur and Nagarahole with instances of safari vehicles continuing to ply in the tourism zone even after 6 p.m.

Concern expressed

He said farmers have expressed concern that this was causing disturbance to wildlife, resulting in conflict situations in villages outside the forests.

In a bid to strike a balance between conservation education and safeguarding local interests, the Minister said that safari and tourism was not only a source of livelihood for many, but was vital for education related to forests, wildlife, and conservation, and directed that the number of safari trips be reduced by one.

Tigress captured

In a separate development, Forest Department personnel captured a tigress at Anjanapura in Nanjangud taluk late on Tuesday, October 28. The tigress was around 8 to 9 years old and is different from the one for which combing operations are going on close to Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary where a farmer was killed in a tiger attack a few days ago.

Describing the captured tigress as "problematic", the authorities said that it has been shifted to Koorgalli wildlife rescue centre on the outskirts of Mysuru for treatment.

Vigilance Awareness Week

BENGALURU: The Rail Wheel Factory, Bengaluru, inaugurated Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 on October 27. The observance, held till November 2, began with the administration of the integrity pledge. Ashish Varma, Chief Vigilance Officer, read out the Central Vigilance Commission's message.

APPOINTMENT

AIC Crescent Innovation Incubation Council
Supported by Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, Govt. of India

AIC–CIIC invites applications from qualified candidates for the position of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to lead innovation and incubation initiatives

Interested candidates may submit their CVs to ed@aic-ciic.ventures,
Last Date for Submission: November 14, 2025 (6:00 PM)

For more details, visit: www.aic-ciic.ventures

Place : Vandalur - 600048
Date : 30.10.2025

Executive Director
AIC – CIIC

Advertisement

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Uttarakhand

Govt. of Uttarakhand
देवभूमि रजत उत्सव

A Destination of Peace, Adventure and Faith

"There are two main pillars for the creation of a developed India in the 21st century – pride in our heritage and making every possible effort for development. Today, Uttarakhand is strengthening both these pillars. This decade will be the decade of Uttarakhand."
Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

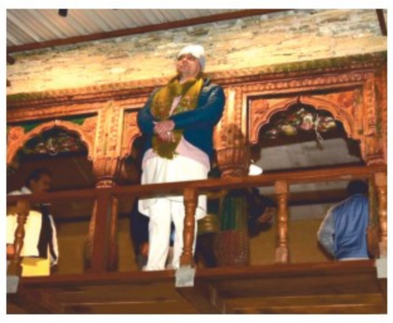
"Under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Uttarakhand is progressing steadily on the path of development. The state government is taking necessary steps to encourage tourists to visit not only for tourism but also to experience the holy shrines. This will allow tourists to enjoy the spiritual and touristic experiences, especially during the winter season."
Pushkar Singh Dhami
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

Home Stays Boost Rural Tourism

Away from the hustle and bustle of city life, tourists are appreciating Uttarakhand's home stays, enjoying warm hospitality in small villages nestled in the beautiful valleys of the mountains. Home stays are now giving rural tourism in Uttarakhand a new identity.

To develop livelihood opportunities in villages affected by migration, the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Griha Aawas (Home Stay) Scheme has emerged as a success story. The aim of the scheme is to attract domestic and international tourists to rural areas of Uttarakhand, familiarize them with the state's rich culture and cuisine, and simultaneously strengthen the rural economy. Under this scheme, over 5,703 home stays have been registered across the state. Additionally, under the Trekking Traction Centre Home Stay Grant Scheme, grants are being provided for the construction of home stays in villages located within a 2 km radius of identified Trekking traction centers. So far, 101 villages across 6 districts have been notified, and over 500 individuals have been identified under this initiative. Furthermore, under the Virchandra Singh Garhwali Tourism Self-Employment Scheme, grants are provided for vehicles and the construction of tourism units, benefiting over 7,300 people to date.

5,703+ Home Stays Registered in Uttarakhand Under the Scheme



Uttarakhand tourism is a divine blend of natural beauty and spiritual significance. The famous destinations nestled in the lap of the Himalayas attract visitors, while trekking, river rafting, and wildlife sanctuaries serve as major attractions for adventure enthusiasts.

Devbhoomi Uttarakhand: A Marvelous Confluence of Natural Beauty & Adventure

Whether it is eco-tourism, wildlife tourism, or the thrill of unexplored snow-capped peaks, skiing, mountain biking, paragliding, and trekking trails, Uttarakhand offers everything that might otherwise require traveling to multiple countries. The state is now recognized for green tourism, mindful travel, wildlife excursions, and nature-based tourism. Owing to improved tourism policies and high potential, the state has witnessed significant investments in the tourism sector over recent years. Moreover, several major investors are exploring further opportunities in the industry. With its adventurous offerings, Uttarakhand is emerging as a prominent destination for adventure tourism.

- Uttarakhand's villages—Jakhol, Supi, Harsil, and Gunji—have been awarded by the Government of India as the Best Tourism Villages.
- Under the Vibrant Village Program, 51 border villages have been selected for planned development.
- Efficient management led to a record number of devotees visiting the Char Dham Yatra.
- For the first time in the state, the winter pilgrimage season was inaugurated.
- Under the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission, work is underway to connect 48 temples and other religious sites into a structured circuit.
- Approval has been granted for the master plan of Mahasu Temple in Hanol.

Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2023 Ensures Financial Inclusion, Environmental Sustainability, & Investor Friendliness

Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2023 presents a comprehensive and transformative approach to establishing the state as a globally recognized tourism hub. The policy will remain effective until 31 March 2030 and is designed to accelerate tourism-led development while ensuring economic inclusion, environmental sustainability, and investor-friendliness.

Institutional Framework and Policy Priorities

The policy focuses on enabling Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and attracting investments across diverse sectors such as hospitality, wellness, adventure, heritage, and rural tourism.

For policy implementation, the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB) has been designated as the nodal agency. A State-Level Empowered Committee (SLEC) has been constituted for projects exceeding INR 50 crore. For MSME projects up to INR 50 crore, District-Level Empowered Committees (DLEC) have been set up. Additionally, District-Level Tourism Committees (DLTC) have been established for the physical inspection and verification of projects.

Eligible Projects and Investment Incentives

Under this policy, various types of tourism units are considered eligible, including hotels, resorts, heritage buildings, ropeways, eco-lodges, yoga and wellness centers, amusement parks, and adventure tourism facilities.

Manaskhand Mandir Mala Yojana A Lifeline for Ancient Temples

Under the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission, the state government is carrying out infrastructure-related development work around 48 ancient temples in the Kumaon region. In the first phase, 16 temples have been selected. These include Jageshwar Temple, Golu Devta Temple, Katarmal Sun Temple, Kasar Devi, Nanda Devi, Patal Bhuvaneshwari Cave, Hat Kalika, Purnagiri, Naina Devi, Baleshwar, Kainchi Dham, Varahi Devi, Baijnath, Bagnath, and Chaiti Bala Sundari Temple.

In addition, the selected temples include Jhankar Sam, Naithna Devi, Vindhyavasini, Mallika Devi, and Syahi Devi in Almora; Mostmanu, Berinag, Malaynath, Thalkedar, and Kotgiri temples in Pithoragarh; Atariya Temple, Nanakmatta, Moteshwar Mahadev, and Vankhandi Mahadev in Udham Singh Nagar; Meetha Reetha Sahib, Guru Gorakhnath Temple, Maneshwar Temple, Baleshwar, and Devidhar in Champawat; Kot Bhramari, Shikhar Bhanar in Bageshwar district; and Golu Devta, Girija Devi Temple, Hanuman Temple, Somwari Mahadev, Devguru Brihaspatidham, and Hanuman Garhi Temple in Nainital district.

BMTC to install digital bus information displays at major bus stations

The smart display system, which will also double as an advertising platform, is part of BMTC's efforts to improve commuter experience and information access at its terminals, say officials

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is set to roll out Digital Bus Information Displays (DBIDs) across key bus stations in the city to provide passengers with real-time updates on bus arrivals, bay locations, and service alerts.

The smart display system, which will also double as an advertising platform, is part of BMTC's efforts to improve commuter experience and information access at its terminals, according to officials.

BMTC officials said that the corporation has invited bids for the installation, operation, and maintenance of DBIDs at 22 major bus stations under two packages, covering a total of 186 digital display units, including four large video walls.

"The five-year project, extendable by up to three years, allows the selected agency to operate the displays in lieu of advertisement rights," a senior official told *The Hindu*.

Each display will be a 55-inch full-HD LED screen, with live data integrated from BMTC's Passenger Information System (PIS) and Automatic Vehicle Location System (AVLS) to show Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA), bay-wise information and wayfinding guidance in Kannada and English.

"These digital displays will not only modernise the look of our bus stations, but also make travel more predictable and passenger-friendly. Commuters will be able to see real-time bus arrival information, route updates, and important public announcements," official explained.

The official added that the system will be backed by a centralised Network Operations Centre (NOC) that monitors uptime and display health. "The displays will operate at a minimum 90% uptime every day. Any downtime will be flagged immediately to ensure repairs within 24 hours," the official added..

Each screen will automatically switch on and off at pre-set times and can also broadcast emergency messages or live news feeds when required. BMTC will utilise 50% of the screen time for official announcements, while the remaining half can be used by the licensee for advertisements, subject to content restrictions.

"The Digital Bus Information Display is a step towards making our bus stations smarter and more informative. It will help commuters plan their journeys better while generating non-fare revenue for BMTC through advertising," the official said.

Track your bus

- Smart digital screens to be installed at major 22 BMTC bus stations
- Will show real-time bus arrival times, bay details, and announcements
- Displays both BMTC messages and commercial advertisements
- Project covers 186 digital display units, including four large video walls

Each display will be a 55-inch full-HD LED screen, with live data integrated from BMTC's Passenger Information System and Automatic Vehicle Location System SUDHAKARA JAIN

Kurnool accident prompts KSRTC to launch State-wide safety audit

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the private bus fire in Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool district on October 24 that claimed 19 lives, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has launched a comprehensive safety audit of its fleet across the State.

A senior KSRTC official said that depot-level teams have already begun inspecting buses, with particular focus on emergency exits, fire extinguishers, first-aid kits, and other safety equipment. "All buses are being checked to ensure that fire extinguishers are in working condition and first-aid kits are fully stocked. The condition and accessibility of emergency exits are also being verified," the official said.

To address risks

In addition to safety checks, KSRTC has begun reviewing the renewal and maintenance schedules of its vehicles to identify and address potential risks. The official said that the ongoing inspection covers both day and night services, ensuring that all buses, especially long-distance services, meet fire safety standards.

In a note dated October 28, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy directed the managing directors of the KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC and KKRTC to conduct immediate safety audits.

Referring to the Kurnool tragedy, Mr. Reddy stressed the need for heightened vigilance to prevent similar incidents in Karnataka. He recalled a similar accident near Haveri district during his previous tenure as Transport Minister, in which a private bus caught fire claiming several lives. That incident had prompted a State-wide safety inspection of nearly 50,000 vehicles, including State-run, private, tourist, and school buses, following which additional emergency exits were installed.

Mr. Reddy instructed officials to ensure that no flammable or explosive materials are transported along with passenger luggage or commercial goods.

As part of the current audit, KSRTC has begun checking the functionality of fire detection and suppression systems (FDSS) and fire alarm and protection systems (FAPS) installed in buses. Officials are verifying that these systems are properly maintained and that drivers and conductors are trained to operate them in case of emergency.

Night-service vehicles

The corporation has also mandated that all night-service vehicles must carry at least two fire extinguishers of five litres each, while other buses should have extinguishers as per prescribed norms. "Electrical wiring in every bus is being examined to ensure there are no loose or damaged connections. Additionally, audits are being carried out to confirm that battery cut-off switches are operational and that any defective ones are repaired immediately," official said.

In air-conditioned buses, KSRTC teams are ensuring that emergency hammers used to break windows during emergencies are installed and easily accessible. If missing, depot officials have been asked to fit them before the buses are despatched for service.

"Drivers and crew have been strictly warned against lighting mosquito coils or any open flames during night journeys. Before any vehicle is sent for operation, its emergency doors, passenger doors, and driver's door will be checked for smooth functioning," the official added.

Furthermore, the corporation will begin regular audio and video announcements at all major bus stations, reminding passengers not to carry inflammable or explosive materials on board. "The campaign aims to raise public awareness and prevent unsafe practices that could endanger lives," officials said.

KSRTC bus safety audit-key measures

- Fire Detection & Suppression Systems and Fire Alarm & Protection Systems being inspected for functionality.
- Crew training for fire emergencies
- All night-service buses must carry two 5-litre fire extinguishers; other buses follow prescribed norms
- Wiring and battery switches to be checked
- Emergency hammers in all AC buses
- No mosquito coils or open flames inside buses
- All doors to be tested before trips
- Passenger safety awareness drive

Source: KSRTC

In addition to safety checks, KSRTC has begun reviewing the renewal and maintenance schedules of its vehicles to identify and address potential risks

Art exhibition

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Renowned theatre personality and activist Prasanna will present his latest artistic venture, an exhibition of paintings titled *Playing with Life*, from Thursday to Sunday, at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath.

The exhibition will be open from 10.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The inaugural ceremony will take place on Thursday at 4 p.m.

Art critic Ravindra Tripathi from Delhi will inaugurate the event. P.S. Kumar, president of the Karnataka Lalithakala Academy, will preside over the function.

Arun Raman, author and entrepreneur, and Aarathi H.N., Head of Programme Division, Chandana, Doordarshan Bengaluru, will participate as chief guests.

IISc announces distinguished alumnus and alumna awards

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has announced that eight scientists and engineers have been selected to receive the institute's distinguished alumnus/alumna awards and young alumnus/alumna medals for the year 2025.

It said that the awards recognise exceptional contributions made by IISc alumni/ae to their profession, society, and the institute.

The nominations received are evaluated by a committee chaired by IISc Director G. Rangarajan.

The awardees

The distinguished alumnus/alumna awardees are: B. Dattaguru, Murthy Gudipati, Sharmila Mande, Suman Chakraborty, and V. Muralidharan.

Mr. Dattaguru is one of the country's foremost experts on structural integrity, fracture mechanics, and aircraft structures. Mr. Gudipati is a senior research Scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), and one of the world's foremost experts in laboratory astrophysics. Ms. Mande is a pioneering computational biologist and bioinformatics leader, widely recognised as one of the first scientists in India to pioneer microbiome research. Mr. Chakraborty is a globally recognised researcher and the youngest director of IIT Kharagpur and Mr. Muralidharan is the founder and managing trustee of Sevalaya Charitable Trust, a non-profit organisation.

Young alumnus

The Young Alumnus/Alumna Medals, given to researchers under the age of 40, are conferred on Anjani Priyadarsini, Arpita Biswas, and Pranesh Padmanabhan. Ms. Priyadarsini is a leading expert in quantum technologies, computational mathematics, and theoretical physics, and currently works at Amazon Web Services India and Ms. Biswas is an internationally recognised researcher at Rutgers University. Mr. Padmanabhan is an interdisciplinary researcher at the University of Queensland.

"We are delighted to confer these awards on a diverse group of alumni who have made exceptional contributions to research and education. We are especially happy to support and recognise our young alumni who are blazing new trails in their fields," Mr. Rangarajan said.

The awardees will be honoured at a ceremony to be held on December 20, at the J.N. Tata Auditorium, IISc.

NCBS and ICTS announce centre to integrate AI in biological research and education

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) and the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS), both centres of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), have signed an agreement to jointly establish a Centre for Artificial Learning and Intelligence for Biological Research and Education (CALIBRE).

CALIBRE will be an interdisciplinary centre dedicated to advancing the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in biological research, education and innovation.

Harnessing AI

The objectives of the centre include establishing state-of-the-art infrastructure to harness the power of AI to transform biology research, developing advanced AI tools for basic, applied, and translational biology research, employing neuromorphic, brain-inspired computing approaches to advance AI technology, providing education and training to young Indian researchers to apply AI tools in biological research and creating named Chair Professorships and Research Travel Fellowships to support biology research.

"While several AI platforms exist internationally, India requires its own context-specific AI tools and infrastructure to address challenges unique to Indian biodiversity, climate, health landscape, and fundamental research landscape. CALIBRE will serve as the national hub where biological insight meets AI innovation," said a communique from NCBS.

CALIBRE will be set up through a ₹25 crore contribution from Vishal Gupta, founder of Reed India Consulting LLP, and Deepshikha Gupta.

"Biology for AI and AI for Biology – two frontiers converging, powered by India's brightest minds at CALIBRE", said Mr. Gupta

L.S. Shashidhara, Director, NCBS., noted that the work of NCBS researchers who work across scales of biology will help test and evaluate the power and limits of various AI tools.

Rajesh Gopakumar, Director, ICTS, noted that ICTS' deep strengths in the mathematical and theoretical sciences will help in the development of new AI techniques and tools with applications in biology as well as related areas of epidemiology and public health. "Finally, the most exciting frontier is to use insights from the functioning and architecture of the brain itself to improve the current AI frameworks," he added.

CALIBRE will be an interdisciplinary centre dedicated to advancing the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in biological research, education and innovation. GETTY IMAGES

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, OCT. 30
RISE 06:13 SET 17:54
RISE 13:15 SET 00:09

FRIDAY, OCT. 31
RISE 06:13 SET 17:54
RISE 13:57 SET 01:03

SATURDAY, NOV. 01
RISE 06:13 SET 17:53
RISE 14:38 SET 01:56

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	24
Mysuru	27	19
Bengaluru	24	20

Bengaluru Today
26°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Mostly dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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Buffalo breeding to get a boost, courtesy new yolk-free technology

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

In a breakthrough that could change the way India breeds buffaloes and improve dairy productivity, scientists at the National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology (NIANP), Bengaluru, under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), have developed a ready-to-use, egg yolk-free solution – CRYODIL –with shelf life of 18 months at refrigeration temperature, for cryopreserving buffalo semen.

Buffalo semen cryopreserved with CRYODIL demonstrated significantly higher post-thaw progressive motility of sperm as compared to that with traditional one.

This is said to be the first time such a product has been developed and tested in India to offer a safer and longer-lasting alternative to traditional methods.

The scientists explained that until now, semen from 'elite' buffalo bulls was preserved using egg yolk-based solutions. While these semen extenders have been widely used, they come with several limitations.

Egg yolk must be fresh, as its shelf life is only a few hours, and its composition varies between eggs, leading to unpredictable results in sperm survival and movement after freezing. Egg yolks can also carry harmful microbes, posing a risk to animal health, and the process of separating the yolk from the egg white is cumbersome.

Moreover, egg yolk contains unknown factors that can reduce sperm motility, making successful fertilisation less likely.

Although egg-yolk-free extenders are available for cattle in some foreign countries, they are expensive, and until now, no commercially available egg yolk-free extender existed in India for cattle or buffaloes, NIANP officials explained.

Freshly collected mammalian semen consists of sperm and seminal plasma, a fluid containing vital components necessary for sperm survival and fertility. During cryopreservation (freezing and storing), semen from one bull, which is usually only 3 to 5 millilitres, is diluted up to 40-50 times to maximise the number of inseminations possible.

This dilution reduces the concentration of seminal plasma components, threatening sperm life and fertility. Moreover, most of these components are not commercially available and cannot be synthesised artificially, creating a significant challenge for preserving semen effectively, officials said.

To address this, the ICAR-NIANP team explored whether a natural body fluid from the same or similar species could replace egg yolk and supply the necessary components. Their research led them to milk from female cattle or buffaloes. While milk contains caseins and whey proteins, not all components were suitable for buffalo sperm.

Casein proteins, for example, did not support sperm viability. After extensive experimentation, the scientists found that purified whey proteins without milk sugars could sustain the viability and motility of buffalo sperm even after freezing.

Tested on 24 buffalos

Building on this discovery, the team developed CRYODIL, an egg yolk-free semen extender that is ready to use and has a shelf life of up to 18 months. The product was tested on 24 buffalo bulls, and the results were significant. Semen preserved with CRYODIL showed improved post-thaw sperm movement (how actively sperm can swim after being frozen and thawed, a key factor that determines whether insemination will lead to pregnancy) and viability, which are critical factors for successful fertilisation.

In addition to improving semen quality, CRYODIL is cheaper to produce than traditional egg yolk-based extenders. A patent for the product and its preparation method has also been filed. Fertility trials are currently underway at BAIF Development Research Foundation, Uruli Kanchan near Pune, and once completed, the product is expected to be introduced for commercial use in the field.

An egret perched on the back of a buffalo. FILE PHOTO V. RAJU

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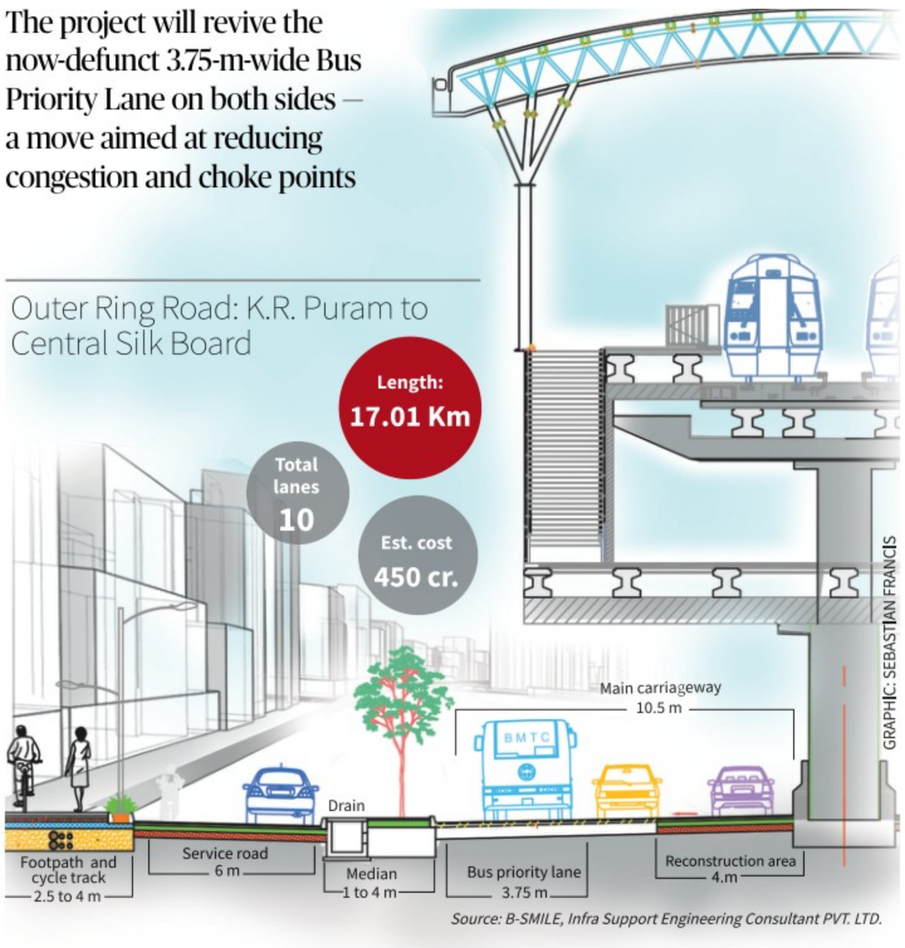
Draft DPR for ORR features 10-lane, bus priority corridor, cycling lanes

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

The project will revive the now-defunct 3.75-m-wide Bus Priority Lane on both sides — a move aimed at reducing congestion and choke points



The project to give a facelift to the notorious 17.01 km Outer Ring Road (ORR) stretch between K.R. Puram and Central Silk Board has finally gained momentum. Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (BSMILE) has prepared and sent the draft detailed project report (DPR) to the government and is expected to come before the Cabinet on Thursday for approval.

The upgraded ORR will feature a 10-lane road, including a six-lane main carriageway (three lanes on each side) with a width of 10.5 m per side and four service lanes (two lanes on each side) with a width of 6 m per side. The road will also have footpaths ranging 2.5 m to 4 m wide on both sides, incorporating cycle lanes. A median ranging from 1 m to 4 m will separate the main carriageway and service lanes, depending on space availability and bus shelter placement, along with a 1-m-wide underground utility duct.

The project will revive the now-defunct 3.75-m-wide Bus Priority Lane (BPL) on both sides – a move aimed at reducing congestion and choke points. Doing away with the earlier model of bus shelter maintenance by private agencies, the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) will now construct and maintain state-of-the-art shelters on its own. Soft rumble strips, half a metre wide, will be placed between the main carriageway and the BPL.

The main carriageway will span 11 m at elevated sections and narrow to 10.5 m at the down ramps. The SPV has decided to reconstruct only 4 m of the main carriageway under the Metro line (around the pillars), which deteriorated during Metro construction. The remaining 6 metres will receive a standard bituminous concrete overlay. The service lanes and footpaths will also undergo a complete makeover.

R.K. Mishra, Independent Director at BSMILE, told *The Hindu* that the white-topping plan was dropped considering the heavy traffic and ongoing metro work. However, three key locations—Marathahalli underpass, Kadubeesanahalli underpass, and Iblur Junction—will be white-topped to address critical infrastructure issues.

"We had initially planned a separate lane for cyclists, but due to space constraints, it will now be integrated into the footpath," he said. The cycle track will resemble the one along Raj Bhavan Road in central Bengaluru.

The project's cost, initially estimated at ₹400 crore, has now risen to ₹450 crore, according to the DPR prepared by Infra Support Engineering Consultants Pvt. Ltd. Mr. Mishra told *The Hindu* that the draft DPR is likely to be approved soon, after which tenders will be floated within ten days.

Sahil Bagla, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic, East), said that bus shelters located on the main carriageway currently add to congestion on the stretch. Supporting his point, Gopal M. Byakod, DCP (Traffic, South), noted that several skywalks have been built unscientifically, forcing pedestrians to cross service lanes since the exits open toward the median.

With the introduction of the bus priority lane, the issue of bus shelters encroaching on the main carriageway will be completely resolved. Only buses will use the dedicated lane, eliminating traffic buildup behind them.

"We are also studying whether metro station stairways can be opened for public use, even for those not taking the metro. This could help address the current skywalk issues," Mr. Mishra told *The Hindu*.

The project is being touted as a potential solution to ORR's congestion problems. However, the challenge lies in the road's extremely high traffic volume.

Originally designed to handle 4,800 Passenger Car Units (PCUs), the road currently accommodates about 10,400 PCUs, according to data on ASTraM. The project aims to correct design flaws and promote public transport usage through the bus priority lanes.

'White-topping on Dr. Rajkumar Road to be completed soon'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bangalore Authority (GBA) M. Maheshwar Rao on Wednesday directed officials to expedite the white-topping work on Dr. Rajkumar Road to ensure completion within the stipulated time.

Mr. Rao inspected the ongoing work on a 700-m stretch between Navrang Theatre and 10th Cross Junction under the West Corporation limits and issued necessary instructions to engineers and civic staff. The corporation is also laying a 1,000 mm pipeline to improve the flow of rainwater in the area. Mr. Rao directed officials to finish the ongoing pipeline work within 15 days, after which the white-topping work must begin and be completed on schedule.

As part of the project, three cross-cultural culverts are to be constructed along the road. Work on one culvert has already begun. The traffic movement on the section where work is underway has been restricted, with vehicles diverted to the opposite lane. Mr. Rao directed officials to prevent congestion in the area and to implement all necessary safety measures during the course of the work.

PGs and hostels

Meanwhile, the East Corporation has issued a final warning to all unauthorised Paying Guest (PG) and hostel operators functioning without a valid trade license within its jurisdiction, cautioning that such establishments will face penalties and sealing of premises if they fail to comply within seven days.

EPFO to simplify claim processes, conduct awareness campaign

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru's business governance is great, as the city has thousands of digitally native and responsible firms, and yet, only 38,000 business establishments are registered currently under the EPFO system here, said Salil Sankar, Regional Commissioner, EPFO.

There are 60,000 establishments under 14 EPFO offices across Karnataka, cumulatively covering some 72 to 78 lakh of subscribers (employees), Mr. Sankar added.

Participating at an interactive session organised by the Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC) here on Wednesday, the Regional Commissioner outlined the EPFO's ongoing efforts to create awareness among employers and employees about the benefits and incentives which are provided by the Centre for new employment generation under the Prime Minister's Vikisit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PMVBRY), the steps taken by EPFO to streamline workflows, reduce documentation burdens, and improve turnaround time through digital platforms such as EPFO 3.0.

The goal is to ensure that social security systems are procedurally not complex, transparent, and seamless, he said.

Amnesty scheme

Additionally, the EPFO plans to launch the Employees' Enrolment Campaign 2025, a one-time amnesty scheme for employers to regularise unregistered employees without facing penalties, by paying the employer's contribution, 7% interest, and a nominal fee of ₹100.

Narrating the organisation's digital transition journey, Mr. Sankar said that the shift to digital began in 2011, particularly with the introduction of the Universal Account Number (UAN), which led to KYC-related chaos and required massive effort to validate data, and now, around 99.73% accounts are Aadhaar-seeded and the EPFO was focusing on stabilising the system.

Government of Karnataka
SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT
Commisioner of Social Welfare
V Floor, M.S.Buildings, Dr.B.R Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-560001
Ph.No. 080-22253783, 22250963

No: SWD/ED-4/CR-/2025-26 Date: 29.10.2025

E- TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Department of Social Welfare has invited E-Tender for the supply of two tier cots and coil mattress from the Manufacturers and authorized Dealers as the case may be for the use of hostels.

Sl No	Details	Division	Nos	Tender Amount
01	Two tier cot	North Karnataka Division	4070	10.00 Crore
02		South Karnataka Division	4070	10.00 Crore
03	Coil mattress pillows	North Karnataka Division	18150	10.00 Crore
04		South Karnataka Division	18188	10.00 Crore

Details regarding the tender can be downloaded through e-procurement portal in Government of Karnataka http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. The last date for the submission of tenders is date **29-11-2025 at 5.00 P.M**.

Sd/-
Additonal Director(Education),
& Tender inviting authority
Social Welfare Department,
Bangalore

DIPR/CP/3475/SSC/2025-26

OFFICE OF THE ZILLA PANCHAYATH TUMKUR.(MDM)
(PM POSHAN (AKSHARA DASOHA) Programme)
Land Line No: 0816-2261567/2005568. Email - copmposhantumkur@gmail.com

No:Z.P.AD:41/2025-26. **Office of the Zilla Panchayath Tumkur, Date: 24/10/2025.**

Tender Advertisement

The appointment of food grains transport contractors for the Akshara Dasoha Programme for 1-10 th Rice & Wheat, Toor Dhal, Oil & Salt & other food grains all 10 taluks KFCSC & TAPCMC GoDown to 1-10 th Standard Govt & Aided, Primary & High schools Kitchen centres of the Tumkur District.

To appoint the transporters, as said above the tenders is invited in website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from Chief Executive officer, Zilla Panchayath, Tumkur.

The interested lorry owners (Transporters) [Who have Registered in R.T.O Office] as application fee through online. [which is not reimbursed in future] For more details one may get information through web site. **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Details:-

1. The date of Publish of the tender:**29/10/2025.**
2. The open date for filling and submitting the tender application forms through online: **29/10/2025.**
3. The date of Pre Bid Tender Meeting: **07/11/2025.**
4. The last date for the submission of filled tender forms through online: **12/10/2025.**
5. The date of opening of Technical Bid tender: **14/11/2025.**
6. The opening of Financial Bid after technical documents verifications.

The Contractor will be charged for a period of one year from the date issue. Related to this tender, EMD amount & for other details one may contact, Education officer, Akshara Dasoha, Zilla panchayath,Tumkur. PH [0816-2261567/2005568] during the office hours & get more information.

Sd/-
Deputy Secretary Administration)
Zilla Panchayath, Tumkur.

DIPR/TUM/RO-147-26/Oysters

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division,Hassan

IFT No.20/2025-26, Dated: 28.10.2025

Short term tenders are invited from eligible Agencies in one & two cover system through KPP portal of GOK (website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for Hassan and Chikmagaluru District works as per KW-1, 2 & 4 maximum tender amount is Rs.120.10 lakhs & minimum tender amount is Rs.1.50 lakhs. The last date of receipt of tender is 03-11-2025 upto 5.30 PM hours. Further detail can be had from KPP-portal and the above office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/716/ಕೆಎಸ್ ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

PUBLIC NOTICE

Under instructions from our clients, General Public is hereby notified that our client intends to purchase land bearing Survey No. 11 situated at Vaderahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

The owner/s of the above said property has represented that the Original of the (1) Sale Deed dated 18.08.1975 registered as Document No. 1478/1975-76 of Book – I in the office of Sub Registrar of Devanahalli taluk (2) Sale Deed dated 06.01.1977 registered as Document No. 1479/1976-77 of Book -I in the office of Sub Registrar of Devanahalli taluk and (3) Release Deed dated 30.11.2005 registered as Document No. DNH-1-04351-2005-06 stored in C.D. No. DNHD70 of Book – I in the office of Sub Registrar of Devanahalli Taluk with respect to the above said Property is lost/not traceable. They have lodged First Information Report (FIR) with Bangalore Rural Police on 23.10.2025 and 29.10.2025. The finder of the Sale Deed is requested to return the same to the below mentioned address. The Public are hereby warned that any transaction whatsoever with any one with respect to the said Property other than the present Owner/s will be invalid and would be doing so at his/their own risk and does not bind the Owner/s. No other person than the present owner/s has any right, title or interest or charge or claim of any nature in relation to the said Property.

Mr. S T Prashantha Kumar, Senior Partner ,
Fox Mandal & Associates LLP , Solicitors & Advocates,
FM House, 6/12, Primrose Road,
Bangalore – 560025, Karnataka, India Ph: +91 80 25 59 59 11
Dated: 30.10.2025

MANDYA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES MANDYA
(Autonomous Medical Institution, Government of Karnataka)
Phone: 08232-231003, 222086, 231197, 224040,
Fax: 08232-231001
E-Mail Address: mimsmandya@gmail.com

Re-TENDER NOTIFICATION
TWO COVER BID SYSTEM

Ref No: MIMS/Sup-D/Patho/E-Tender/14/2024-25, C-2
Dated: 27.10.2025

Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences (MIMS), Mandya, invites Re-tender for Supply of Chemicals, Reagents, Kits, Consumables & etc Items to the Pathology Department (approximate amount Rs.158.00 Lakhs) of MIMS Mandya from the Manufacture/s or Authorized Dealers in two cover bid system as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act-1999 and Rules thereunder. Submission of e-tender and other details can be obtained in e-procurement portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/-Director,
Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences,
Mandya,

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್ ಎಂಸಿಎ/521/2025–26

KARNATAKA CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' FEDERATION LIMITED
KMF Complex, Dr. M.H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 E-mail: kmfengg@gmail.com

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/30 KLHP Homogenizer to mother Dairy/02024/2025-26 Date: 29-10-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

[Two cover System] [Through KPP Portal only]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd, Bengaluru invites tender from the eligible suppliers / manufacturers through KPP-Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested and reputed Suppliers/ Manufacturer who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website **https://www.kppp.karntaka.gov.in** and also contact Help desk **E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.**

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD (Rs.)	Period of Contract
1	Design, supply, Installation & Commissioning of 30 KLPH-Capacity Homogenizer & 30 KLPH Capacity Pasteurizer and related works to Product section on buy back basis at Mother Dairy, Yelahanka.	1 Job	6,78,000/-	9 months

(1) Tender may be downloaded from dated: **03-11-2025 to 04-12-2025 upto 4:00 PM. (2)** Pre Bid Tender date: **21-11-2025 at 11.00AM. (3)** Last date for Tender submission on date: **04-12-2025 upto 4:00 PM. (4)** Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: **05-12-2025 upto 4:30 PM.**

Hence forth changes / modification in the tender, It will be uploaded on KPPP portal only.

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN - UO4010KA2002SGC030438)

NOTIFICATION INVITING TENDER (NIT)
(Through KPP Portal)

Enquiry No: BESCOM/2025-26/UC/WORK_INDENT557.

Name of the Work: "Conversion of existing 11kV Overhead line into Underground (UG) cable in Chintamani town, Chintamani subdivision of Chintamani division, Kolar circle, BRAZ, BESCOM under System Strengthening works on percentage basis quoting". Availability of Bid Documents: 06.11.2025 onwards. Last date for Bid Submission: 05.12.2025 @ 15:00 Hrs. Opening of Technical Bids: 06.12.2025 @ 15:30 Hrs. Pre-Bid meeting: 19.11.2025 @ 11:00 Hrs. Venue: Conference Hall, 3rd Floor, BELAKU BHAVANA, Corporate office, BESCOM, K. R. Circle, Bangalore-560 001. The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) from the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. KPP portal Help Desk: Phone No: +91 9240214000/+91 9240214001/+91-8046010000/ +91-8068948777 E-mail: support@ eprochelpdesk.com Aspiring bidders needs to be registered on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP). Bidders can take the assistance from the office of the undersigned during working hours.

Sd/- Chief General Manager, Electy., Projects, BESCOM, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560001.

For electricity related complaints call 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra MOBILE APP

CIDCO
WE MAKE CITIES

NOTICE INVITING BID

Construction of 45m & 30m wide Approach Road for International Educity under Centre of Excellence at Kundevahal, Navi Mumbai

CIDCO of Maharashtra Limited through the process of E-tendering invites **"ON LINE"** Item Rate Percentage Bids from experienced prospective bidders fulfilling the mandatory eligibility criteria, registered with CIDCO Ltd. or with Central Govt., or with State Govt. of Maharashtra and its undertakings in appropriate class & Category, who have completed work of similar nature for the work mentioned below:

1. Name of Work : Construction of 45m & 30m wide Approach Road for International Educity under Centre of Excellence at Kundevahal, Navi Mumbai 2. C. A. No.: 03/CIDCO/EE(CP)/2025-26 **3. Cost Put to the Bid :** ₹116,53,29,797.61 (excluding GST) ₹116,43,85,065.01 (Biddable Part) + ₹9,44,732.60 (Non-Biddable) **4. E.M.D. :** ₹1,17,00,000.00 **5. Registration Class :** Class – IA (Without Limit)-(Civil) **6. Completion Period :** 365 (Three Sixty Five) Days (including Monsoon) **7. Tender Processing Fee :** ₹70,800.00/- (including 18% GST (Non-Refundable))

Similar Work definition:

Bidder should have experience of completed works of Roads, S.W. Drain Work, Sewerage Network, Water Supply Network, Infrastructure work collectively or individually during last 7 (Seven) years.

Bid Document along with bidding programme will be available on the website **https://mahatenders.gov.in** from 10/11/2025 at 17.01 Hrs.

Superintending Engineer (P & K)

CIN - U99999 MH 1970 SGC-014574
www.cidco.maharashtra.gov.in
CIDCO/PR/314/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients **1] Mrs.Khatija Yunus & 2] Mr.E.Yunus** intends to purchase the property mentioned in the schedule hereunder jointly owned by **1] Mr. SYED RAFIQ 2] Mr. SYED SIRAJ, 3] Mr. SYED JAWID and 4] Mr. SYED WAJID** all children of Late Syed Munawar & his wife Mrs. Ameena Bee, The owners represents that they have lost the original sale deed dated 24.05.1979 Doc No.392 of 1979-80, Bk-1, Vol 3126, at Pg. 120-126, Office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore and further represent that apart from them there are no other person/s having any right or claim over the schedule property and they have not mortgaged, created lien or encumbered the schedule property or part thereof in any manner and have not entered into any agreement of **SALE/ DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT/ MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING Etc**., with any other person/s. Any person/s or body of persons, banks, financial institutions, NBFC's Etc., having any objection/s or claims, shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/claims **within 15 days** from the date of this notice with the undersigned, failing which, my client shall proceed with the above mentioned transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY:

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL Immovable Property bearing No.1/1. situated at NAGAWARA MAIN ROAD, KADUGONDANAHALLI, Bangalore, (Previously bearing Site No. 1/1, Khatha No.504, situated at Gramatana of KADUGONDANAHALLI VILLAGE, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk. Bangalore), Presently coming under the jurisdiction of BRUHAT BANGALORE MAHANAGARA PALIKE - New Ward No.23, Bangalore, with all rights over the appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the Surface and bounded on the **EAST by** Nagawara Main Road, **WEST by** Private Property, **NORTH by** Private Property, (Previously Site No.1/2, of V.K. Zaibunnisa),**SOUTH by**20 Feet Road And measuring on the EAST to WEST 50 feet and NORTH to SOUTH 40 feet, Totally measuring 2000 square feet, along with a Residential cum Commercial Building built thereon, provided with all basic civic amenities therein

S.B.ABDUR RAHMAN Advocate,
1st Floor, M M Complex-1, No.60 Chickbazaar Road, Tasker Town, Bangalore-51.
Bangalore Off : **4148 0443 Mob-98450 83304** Dated: 30.10.2025

High Court notice to government on fund allocation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday ordered issue of notice to the State government on a PIL petition filed by Jagadeesh Shivayya Gudagunti, BJP MLA from Jamkhandi constituency in Bagalkot district, alleging discrimination in the distribution of funds under the Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Program (CMIDP) to the constituencies represented by MLAs from the Opposition.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha adjourned further hearing till January 21, 2026, while directing the government to file its response to the averments made in the petition.

Pointing out that the CMIDP was announced in the State Budget for 2025-26 by making allocation of ₹8,000 crore for this purpose, it has been alleged in the petition that the government has discriminated in distributing funds to Assembly constituencies represented by the Opposition as only ₹25 crore has been allotted to such constituencies as against the ₹50 crore allotted to the constituencies represented by the ruling party MLAs.

For other constituencies, like Mudhol, Bilagi, Badami, Bagalkot, and Hunagund, in Bagalkot district, which are represented by MLAs from the ruling party, the government has released ₹50 crore from CMIDP whereas only ₹25 crore was distributed for the petitioner's constituency, it has been alleged in the petition.

The unequal distribution of funds from budgetary scheme based on political representation of the Assembly constituency amounts to violation of fundamental right guaranteed under Article 14 (equality before law) and Articles 38 (State to secure a social order for the promotion of welfare of the people) and 39 (Certain principles of policy to be followed by the State) of the Constitution.

State government mulls law to implement internal reservation

The Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-classification) Bill, 2025, will be piloted in the Winter Session of the legislature

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Under pressure from the Dalit Left groups to implement the internal reservation matrix in public employment and education at the earliest, the Karnataka government is getting ready to provide legislative teeth to implement the decades-old demand.

Government sources said that The Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-classification) Bill, 2025, which is ready, will be piloted in the Winter Session of the legislature.

A source aware of developments said that there was initially a proposal to promulgate an Ordinance, but was dropped as the government was not sure if the Governor would agree to it.

"A Bill passed by the legislature after extensive discussions would help convince the Governor," he said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at a meeting on the issues related to the implementation of internal reservation for Scheduled Castes at the Vidhana Soudha on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The legislation has been readied to provide internal reservation for 101 Scheduled Castes grouped under three categories. The proposed legislation will cover backlog vacancies, fixation of roster points for Scheduled Castes in both vertical and horizontal reservation for appointments in State civil services, and other establishments of the local authority or corporation or other body.

Demand from the Dalit Left groups, however, is to include internal reservation in apportioning funds under SC Special Component Plan, and reservation in representation in local bodies.

Issues under discussion

On Wednesday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah met Cabinet Ministers from the Dalit Left and Right communities to discuss the modalities in implementing the internal reservation and address the challenges before it.

Among the issues discussed, it is learnt, were formation of roster for recruitment and promotion, and provision of caste certificates to over 44 lakh persons who are currently holding Adi Karnataka, Adi Dravida, and Adi Andhra certificates.

A note from the Chief Minister's Office said that the Chief Minister directed the officials to ensure that no caste is let down in the drawing of roster and every community's voice is heard before drawing up the roster.

Following the recommendations of the commission headed by retired judge H.N. Nagamohan Das, the State Cabinet on August 19 agreed to an internal reservation providing 6% each to Dalit Left and Right while providing 5% to Lambani, Bhovi, Korama, and Koracha communities.

Though the commission recommended 1% to 59 nomadic and semi-nomadic castes, including 49 micro-scopic castes, the government brought these castes with Lambanis and others.

Sources said that it was felt that a government order to provide effect to the internal reservation could face legal hurdles. The High Court is hearing a petition filed by persons from nomadic castes questioning the reservation matrix. The petition is coming up for hearing on November 5.

Meanwhile, sources said that delay in commencing issue of caste certificates to replace the existing AD/ AK/ AA certificates also figured during the meeting.

It is learnt that about 44 lakh persons in Karnataka hold AD/AK/ AA certificates though nearly 40 lakh of them identified with their original castes during the survey conducted by the Das Commission. About 4.7 lakh persons who do not know their original castes have continued to identify in the category.

'Shivakumar will become CM if he is destined'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former MP D.K. Suresh said on Wednesday that his brother and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar will occupy the Chief Minister's chair if he is so destined.

"If it is written on his fate, he will become the Chief Minister. Otherwise, he will not. Why should we bother about it? He will continue as the KPCC president as per the high command wish," he said.

Only Rajyotsava

Mr. Suresh, who is also the chairman of the Bengaluru Milk Union (Bamul), downplayed the purported "November Revolution" in State politics, as predicted by the Opposition referring to possible leadership change, and said he remembers only Kannada Rajyotsava in November.

"Let us all celebrate this festival together. I don't know about the other issues. This question should be asked to the party president, the Chief Minister, and the AICC leaders," he said.

When asked about Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's decision to contest the 2028 elections, the Congress leader said leaders who were 95-98 years old have been contesting elections.

"There is nothing wrong with Mr. Siddaramaiah contesting the next Assembly polls. We will face the next election under his leadership," he said.

When asked if the confusion over the leadership change was affecting the administration, he said, "I have no experience in governance. I had just served as the MP."

Ahinda organisations launch letter campaign

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Amid speculation over the replacement of Chief Minister mid-term in the State, Ahinda organisations in Mysuru have launched a letter campaign urging the Congress leadership to declare Mr. Siddaramaiah as the Chief Minister for a full five-year term.

Representatives of various Ahinda organisations launched the campaign by posting letters to Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, in Mysuru, on Wednesday urging the Congress leader and All India Congress Committee president Mallikarjun Kharge to immediately intervene and declare Mr. Siddaramaiah as Chief Minister for the full-term, thereby putting an end to the prevailing confusion over the leadership.

The letter seeks to bring to Mr. Gandhi's notice that the massive victory of the Congress party in Karnataka was possible on account of Mr. Siddaramaiah's leadership and the support of the communities representing Ahinda, an acronym for Minorities, Backward Classes and Dalits, who had collectively voted for the party. These communities also wish to that Mr. Gandhi becomes the Prime Minister of the country, the letter said.

Though Mr. Siddaramaiah was unanimously elected as the Leader of the Congress Legislature Party by the MLAs for a full five-year term, in recent years, the Opposition parties - BJP and JD (S) - have been spreading misinformation and indulging in politics over the Chief Minister's post, thereby creating confusion in the minds of the public. Unfortunately, a few Congress leaders were also echoing these views, the letter lamented.

While cautioning Mr. Gandhi that such internal discord could hinder the growth of the party, the letter sought to make it clear that removal of Mr. Siddaramaiah from the post of Chief Minister would not be tolerated by the Ahinda communities.

Google chose Visakhapatnam because of Centre's incentives: Patil

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil has blamed the Centre's incentives to Andhra Pradesh behind Google's choice for setting up its AI Data Centre in Visakhapatnam.

Fielding queries from reporters in Mysuru on Wednesday, Mr. Patil said the Union government, which is functioning with the support extended by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's Telugu Desam Party (TDP), had given the neighbouring State an incentive of ₹22,000 crore.

'Not on merit'

Google's decision to set up its AI's data centre in Andhra Pradesh was "not on merit", said Mr. Patil, who added that it was "politically decided". However, Mr. Patil sought to clarify that no industries were leaving Karnataka. On the contrary, many were evincing interest in setting up shop in the State because of its "ecosystem" and availability of "talent".

When asked if the Centre was coming in the way of such industries setting up shop in Karnataka, Mr/ Patil replied in the affirmative and said the Centre, through its India Semiconductor Mission, prefers such industries to be set up in BJP-ruled States like Gujarat and Maharashtra.

"We had almost concluded discussions on a semi-conductor industry here. They had decided on Karnataka, but changed their mind after going to Delhi because of the incentives," said Mr. Patil.

He cited the example of Micron Technologies, a semi-conductor manufacturing company, which was set up in Gujarat. With the Centre extending an aid of 50%, an industry set up at a cost of ₹1 lakh crore will get Central financial assistance of ₹50,000 crore while the Gujarat government will give another 30% amounting to ₹30,000 crore. The company will have to invest only ₹20,000 crore, he said. With regard to the recent Global Investors' Meet (GIM) attracting an investment of ₹10.27 lakh crore, Mr. Patil said already 60% of the announced investment was in the process of conversion.

Unlike other States, where the announced investment is only on paper, the investment in Karnataka will convert upto 75 to 80%, he said.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory

SAROJA & RADHA K. RAMAN

"What we once enjoyed and deeply loved we can never lose, for all that we love deeply becomes part of us"

Family Members, Directors, Staff & Employees

MILIA

Mil Industries and Aerospace Limited

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

40th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Miss **V RUBY JOHN**

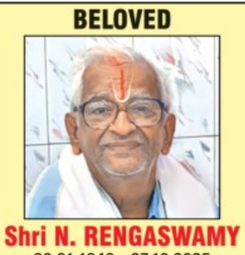
18.02.1963 to 30.10.1985

Unseen & Unheard,
But Always Near & Still Loved,
Missed & Very Dear

You Are Alive In Our Hearts Dear
Daughter & Sister

DEATH

BELOVED



Shri N. RENGASWAMY
30.01.1940 - 27.10.2025
Retired Zonal Manager LIC
attained Acharyan Tiruvadi on Monday 27.10.2025.
We miss your vibrant presence.
Your love, discipline, curiosity, wisdom, courage, & humour will guide us always.
Deeply mourned by
Wife and Family
Ph: 7708529623

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981, 080 - 22071826
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
For Placing Advertisements Online log on to : www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
EDUCATION & WELFARE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, VIJAYAWADA
e-procurement Tender Notice (RFP)
NIT (RFP) No: 89/MD/APEWIDC/VJA/2025-26, Dated: 29.10.2025
Downloading commencement on 31.10.2025 and closing date may be viewed in e-procurement.gov.in
Request For Proposal (RFP) is invited for identifying the Architectural Consultants through a Design Competition for awarding of bid to the Best Cum Least Cost consultant using QCBS Method for "Construction of State Central Library at Amaravati, AP.," with an appropriate built cost of Rs.150.00 Crores with a plinth area of 2,00,000 Sft from Consultants for Engineering & Architectural Consultancy Services, across the Nation (Country Wide).
Further details may be viewed at http://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in Contact No. 08645 295758, 9704789012.
Note:1.Changes / amendment if any will only be communicated through above e-procurement platform.
Sd/- Managing Director, APEWIDC, Vijayawada

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 590018, Karnataka
Ref.No: VTU/BGM/SAP/CW1/22/T-719/2025-26/3821 Date: 29-10-2025
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
The Registrar, VTU, Belagavi invites (Two Cover Systems) e-Tenders for the following work through e-Procurement Tendering Mode. **Name of Work: Tender for Procurement of Equipment for Establishment of AICTE Idea Lab at Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, VTU PG Centre, Belagavi.** Amount Put to Tender: **Rs. 72,64,700/-,** EMD Amount: **Rs. 1,09,000/-.** Last Date for Receipt of Tender: **06-11-2025 upto 10.30 AM.** Date of Opening of Tender: **07-11-2025 at 11.00 AM.** The details regarding participation in the e-Tendering can be accessed by logging to our VTU Website: **www.vtu.ac.in** and KPP Portal Website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/-
Registrar
DIPR/Belagavi/1237/Adverto/2025-26

e-mail:- serw_ctc@yahoo.com
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK
No:-Tender Online RWC -24/2025, Letter No.:- 3854 Date : 24.10.2025
e - Procurement NOTICE

1. Name of the Work	:	Construction of Road & Bridge Works.
2. Class of Contractor		
c) Estimated cost more than Rs.6.00 Crore & upto Rs.50.00 Crore	:	Special Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
d) Estimated cost more than Rs.1.00 Crore & upto Rs.20.00 Crore	:	A Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
c) Estimated cost more than Rs.20.00 Lakh & upto Rs.3.00 Crore	:	B Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
3. Time for Completion	:	As specified in the Column-7 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects	:	As per Annexure attached
5. Other Details	:	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender 1	2
1	2	3	4	5	1	2
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack.	Tender Online RWC - 24/25	30.10.2025 at 11.30 A.M.	19.11.2025 up to 05.00 P.M	19.11.2025 up to 02.00 P.M	20.11.2025 at 11.30 A.M	Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in .
Chief Construction Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Cuttack.
O-1200: OIPR-25097/11/0036/2526

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
COMMISSIONERATE FOR WELFARE OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED
No.05, LADY WILLINGDON COLLEGE CAMPUS, KAMARAJAR SALAI, CHENNAI-600 005.
Roc.No. 3722 /A&A/RIGHTS/2025 **TENDER NOTICE** Dated : 09.10.2025
Bids are invited from potential bidders for supply of Assessment and Therapy equipment to 13 sub divisional OSC's across the districts of Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam, Tiruppur, Villupuram, Tiruvarur, and Kallakuruchi through the e-procurement portal. The complete details are available on the department website **www.scd.tn.gov.in** as well as on the tender website-**tntenders.gov.in**
Bids shall be submitted only through the e-procurement portal at **http://tntenders.gov.in**
Project Director – TN RIGHTS /Commissioner, Commissionerate for welfare the Differently Abled, Chennai-600 005 reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders without assigning any reason.
DIPR/ 5888 /TENDER/2025
Project Director – RIGHTS /
Commissioner for Welfare of the Differently Abled

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ
ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(At/Po :- Ambapua, Near Income Tax Office, Berhampur-760011, Ganjam, Odisha)
(E-Mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com; Tel No.:-0680-2404287)
No. e-tender // 3802 // RWC// BAM// Dated 17.10.2025 E-Mail/E-despatch
1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Online Tender / 32-2025-26/BPR
1) The partial modification of Road works under MMSY-CMRL vide above identification has been made as follows.

1.	Date of availability of tender	:	06.11.2025 to 20.11.2025 upto 5.30 PM instead of 17.10.2025 to 31.10.2025 up to 5.30 PM
2.	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	:	18.11.2025 at 5.30 PM instead of 29.10.2025 at 5.30 PM
3.	Date of opening of Technical Bid	:	21.11.2025 at 11.00 AM instead of 01.11.2025 at 11.00 AM
4.	Date of opening of Financial Bid	:	Will be intimated later on.

All other contents will remain unchanged.
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur
O- 1236 : OIPR-25071/11/0155/2526

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED
(A State Govt. Undertaking)
Press Tender Notice
(E-Tendering Mode Only)
Online tenders are hereby invited for the following work:

Tender No.	Description of Project	Qty.	Price of Tender Document (Rs.)	Estimated cost (Rs.)	Amount of EMD (Rs.)
SSD–574/ 2025	Design, Engineering, Manufacturing, Testing of Equipment, Supply, Delivery, Storage at Site, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of equipment along with other allied works & Civil works on Turn-key basis for construction of 66/22 kV, 2x6.3 MVA S/Stn. Sumdo and 66/22 kV, 2x6.3 MVA S/Stn. Kaza in Himachal Pradesh under Border Area Outpost scheme.	1 Job	10,000/- + 18% GST extra	44,60,50,571/-	89,21,011/-

I) Date of online publication 31-10-2025
ii) Start date and time of bid submission 31-10-2025 at 09:00 AM
iii) End date and time of bid submission 21-11-2025 at 01:00 PM
iv) Date and time of opening of Techno comm. bid 22-11-2025 at 03:00 PM
The tender document can be downloaded free of cost from the website https://hptenders.gov.in
-sd-
Superintending Engineer (Design),
ES, HPSEBL, Hamirpur (HP)-177001.
E-mail-sedeshmr@gmail.com
HP / 1350/2025-2026

OFFICE OF THE JOINT DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE (INFORMATION),ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
e-Tender
" Designing and Printing of Training materials for Farmers under National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) "
e-Tender No 3025 Dt.28/10/2025 : The Joint Director of Agriculture (Information), Bhubaneswar invites e-tender from the eligible bidders for Designing and Printing of Training materials for Farmers under National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)"
The detail tender document can be downloaded from the website of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Department at **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** or **www.agri.odisha.gov.in from 29.10.2025.**
The bids can be submitted through online mode in the **https://tendersodisha.gov.in before 19.11.2025, 5.00 PM**. Submission of bid through other mode and late bid will be outrightly rejected.
The Joint Director of Agriculture (Information), Bhubaneswar reserves the right to reject any/ all proposals without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd/- Joint Director of Agriculture (Information), Bhubaneswar
L-95: OIPR-01034/11/0011/2526

‘Swiss firms have shown interest in Quantum City’

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Swiss companies and key research institutions in the quantum technology sector have responded positively to partnership opportunities in the proposed Quantum City in Bengaluru, said N.S. Boseraju, Minister for Minor Irrigation, Science and Technology.

Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, the Minister said the Karnataka government is implementing several programmes aimed at establishing Bengaluru as the “global focal point for the quantum sector”. Following the announcement at the country’s first Quantum Conference, the State government has already allocated land for the Quantum City.

Talking about his recent visit to Switzerland, Mr. Boseraju said discussions concerning the city’s development were held with representatives from leading global quantum research institutions, including ETH Zurich and CERN. The Minister noted that Karnataka, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), has initiated courses to develop skilled quantum human resources. He emphasised the availability of expert talent and a conducive environment for new research in the State.

“Michael Hengartner, president of the ETH Zurich Board, responded positively to our request for cooperation in research projects,” the Minister said.

Karnataka participated in the “Swissnex Quantum Summit”, where the delegation provided information on investment opportunities to representatives of major global quantum companies. A demonstration of the proposed Quantum City was also showcased.

The delegation visited ETH Zurich, the institution famously associated with Albert Einstein’s research. The Minister extended an invitation to world-renowned directors of the ETH Zurich Quantum Center – Andreas Wallraff, Jonathan Home, and Klaus Ensslin – pioneers in superconducting qubits and trapped ion systems research for over 20 years, to attend the upcoming Quantum India Conference. Mr. Boseraju said that several research innovations at ETH Zurich University’s laboratories have successfully transitioned into startups. He said the delegation received a positive response regarding the adoption of a similar ecosystem within the Quantum City and the request for collaboration.

During the visit to Zurich Instruments, information was gathered on the manufacture of essential instrumentation required for Quantum Computing development. The Minister announced that this institution has agreed to provide training to research students from Karnataka.

Kerala puts PM SHRI scheme on hold, sets up review panel

Education Minister Sivankutty will chair the committee; move comes after ruling front ally CPI raises concerns over mandatory inclusion in the scheme to receive Central funds for education

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday announced a seven-member Cabinet subcommittee to study the CPI’s concerns on the PM SHRI scheme.

The key ruling front ally publicly denounced the signing of MoU by the State government, as the “reactionary” National Education Policy-linked PM SHRI scheme, which the BJP-led Central government had set as an obligatory condition for releasing statutory federal grants estimated at ₹1,446 crore for school education.

Mr. Vijayan said the government had frozen further procedures concerning the scheme until the panel submitted its report to the government.

Standing firm: CPI State secretary Binoy Viswam along with senior leaders in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

Mr. Vijayan told a press conference that General Education Minister V. Sivankutty would chair the committee which will include Revenue Minister K. Rajan (CPI), Agriculture Minister P. Prasad (CPI), Law Minister P. Rajeeve (CPI-M), Electricity Minister K. Krishnankutty (Janata Dal-Secular), Water Resources Minister Roshy Augustine (Kerala Congress-M) and Forest Minister A.K. Saseendran (Nationalist Congress Party).

Mr. Vijayan hinted that the government would defer any call on PM SHRI till after the local body polls. “We will all be busy in the coming months,” he stated.

Asked whether the CPI (M) capitulated to the CPI by forsaking sizeable federal grants for school education, Mr. Vijayan said the people were aware of the LDF’s credibility and no amount of tarnishing would rob the ruling front of its sheen.

CPI State secretary Binoy Viswam refused to portray the Cabinet decision as his party’s victory. “The CPI does not view the situation through the narrow prism of victory or non-victory. The CPI(M) and CPI played a historic role in yet again authoring the victory of Left politics and ideology,” he said.

Azharuddin to be a Minister in Telangana

Ravi Reddy
HYDERABAD

In a surprise development, former Indian cricketer and Congress leader Mohammad Azharuddin will be inducted into the Telangana Cabinet as a Minister on Friday.

Curiously enough, the decision comes in the midst of hectic campaign for the byelection to Jubilee Hills Assembly constituency. The constituency, which goes to the polls on November 11, has a huge concentration of Muslim voters.

Mohammad Azharuddin

In August, Mr. Azharuddin was nominated to the Legislative Council as a member under the Governor’s quota after the Supreme Court struck down the earlier nominations of Kodandaram and Amer Ali Khan. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy in the revised list nominated Mr. Kodandaram and Mr. Azharuddin.

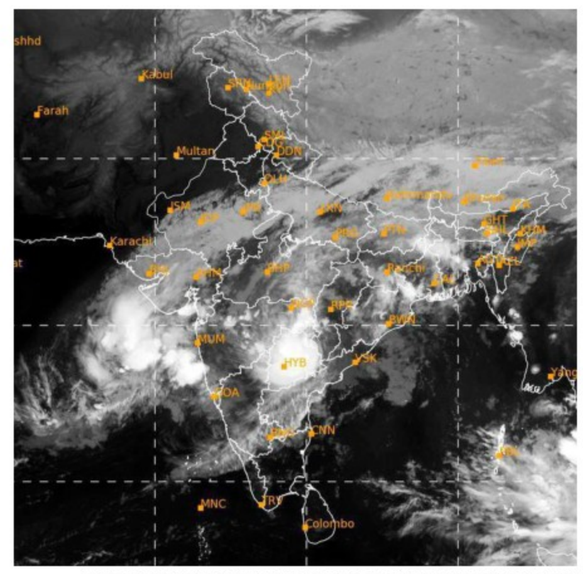
Pre-election move

The Jubilee Hills byelection has turned out to be a prestige issue for the Congress, which has consciously decided to induct Mr. Azharuddin as a Minister to boost its prospects among the minorities.

The attempt is also seen as a bid to pacify the minority communities, which have been disappointed after failing to get a Cabinet berth. There are no Muslim MLAs from the Congress party and in the Cabinet. With Mr. Azharuddin’s induction, the number of Ministers in the Revanth Reddy Cabinet will now go up to 16.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.45 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Sikkim, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.4	25.0	Kozhikode	17	33.5	25.4
Ahmedabad	0.1	29.5	22.0	Kurnool	39	27.6	22.5
Aizawl	—	29.9	19.2	Lucknow	0.2	30.4	20.0
Allahabad	0.7	26.4	21.0	Madurai	—	36.7	24.3
Bengaluru	—	26.6	19.9	Mangaluru	—	30.2	24.0
Bhopal	—	25.2	19.0	Mumbai	0.4	34.5	25.3
Bhubaneswar	19	30.0	24.6	Mysuru	0.1	27.4	19.0
Chandigarh	—	30.4	16.6	New Delhi	—	29.0	18.2
Chennai	—	34.1	23.6	Patna	1	28.9	25.6
Coimbatore	—	32.0	23.4	Port Blair	—	31.2	24.7
Dehradun	—	31.0	14.8	Puducherry	—	33.9	24.0
Gangtok	0.2	16.6	14.8	Pune	—	32.7	23.2
Goa	6	25.7	25.0	Raipur	—	30.3	23.6
Guwahati	—	29.0	22.9	Ranchi	21	24.4	21.1
Hubballi	—	27.0	20.0	Shillong	—	22.6	14.7
Hyderabad	11	24.2	22.8	Shimla	—	24.0	12.0
Imphal	—	30.3	22.1	Srinagar	—	23.4	3.6
Jaipur	—	26.7	18.8	Thiruvananthapuram	18	31.6	23.3
Kochi	4	31.2	25.8	Tiruchi	—	34.9	23.4
Kohima	—	27.9	17.2	Vijayawada	27	25.5	22.8
Kolkata	0.4	30.0	26.0	Visakhapatnam	17	27.8	25.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.29	.31	.28	60	66	
Bengaluru	—	.23	102	46	89	
Chennai	.15	.23	.23	89	77	
Delhi	.36	.76	.96	331	271	
Hyderabad	.15	.20	.27	77	93	
Kolkata	.6	.8	.56	62	63	
Lucknow	.5	.56	.47	64	91	
Mumbai	—	.54	.38	55	111	
Pune	—	.22	.63	115	116	
Visakhapatnam	.10	.13	.13	31	43	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Panchkula, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 334 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Kunjemura, Chhattisgarh recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Lokayukta arrest PP for accepting bribe of ₹1,100

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Lokayukta Police on Wednesday trapped a woman Public Prosecutor (PP) red-handed while accepting a bribe of ₹1,100 in return of an official favour.

Based on a complaint, a team of officials caught K.S. Latha, Public Prosecutor, 45th City Civil and Sessions Court (CCH-46), Bengaluru City, red-handed while allegedly accepting the money. According to the officials, Ms. Latha promised to favour the accused in the case and not file any objection to the latter’s bail application. She was booked under Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and taken into custody for further investigation.

Measuring loss

A farmer taking a look at the paddy crop damaged by strong winds caused by Cyclone Montha in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday. Flash flood warning has been issued for 14 districts in neighbouring Telangana till 5.30 p.m. on Thursday. K.V.S. GIRI

Bengaluru start-ups captured a whopping $38 bn from VCs during 2020-24: Priyank Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru start-ups attracted venture capital (VC) funds worth a whopping $38 billion during the period between 2020 and 2024, signalling a strong investor confidence, said Priyank Kharge, IT & BT Minister.

Despite a global meltdown, Karnataka-based start-ups have raised $1.7 billion of funds in the first half of 2025, the highest by any State, Mr. Kharge told a group of 50 VC firms visiting the city on Wednesday.

“This is the result of the collective effort of our entrepreneurs, investors, and the government,” the Minister said.

Bengaluru and Karnataka were uniquely positioned to lead the next wave of technology, innovation, and investment, and the role of the VC community would be extremely crucial, Mr. Kharge stated.

“Your participation, presence, and mentorship can make a tangible difference to the next generation of entrepreneurs in AI and Deep-Tech Innovation,” Mr. Kharge told the VC players.

According to the Minister, over the past few years, the State has emerged as one of the world’s most dynamic start-up ecosystems. Last year, the Department of Electronics, IT, BT, and Science & Technology, launched the Investor Connect programme to create a dynamic platform for start-ups to directly engage with leading investors and pitch their innovative ideas which benefited both start-ups and investors, he said.

134 applications

This year, the State government has received 134 start-up applications spanning 27 diverse sectors, reflecting the depth and vibrancy of Karnataka’s innovation ecosystem.

As per Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2025, Bengaluru climbed seven notches in the Global Start-up Ecosystem rankings, now standing at the 14th position globally in AI and Big Data.

India ranks sixth globally among Deep-tech ecosystems, nurturing over 3,600 deep-tech start-ups with majority of these being based in Karnataka.

Conference on ‘EdTech for Equitable Education’ today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

IT for Change, a Bengaluru-based NGO, in collaboration with Critical EdTech India (CETI), will convene a day-long conference titled ‘EdTech for Equitable Education: Critical Conversations’ on Thursday.

The event brings together diverse voices – practitioners, academics, technologists, and civil society organisations – to reflect on how we might envision EdTech for equitable and meaningful education, said a release from the organisers of the event. The event will begin with a keynote address by Jian Xi Teng, programme specialist for education, UNESCO, and will be followed by a series of sessions.

The event will begin with a keynote address by Jian Xi Teng, programme specialist for education, UNESCO, followed by a series of other sessions

Schedule

At 4 p.m., *IT for Change at 25: Building Just Digital Futures*, a film documenting 25 years of IT for Change’s work towards digital justice, will be screened. This will be followed by a session titled ‘Reimagining Realities: A discussion on the film *Humans in the Loop*’ , at 5 p.m.

The conversation brings together the film’s director Aranya Sahay, and renowned feminist scholar Usha Raman, University of Hyderabad, and co-founder of FemLab, to reflect on questions of AI, gender, and work, and to explore how storytelling can open new perspectives on digital futures.

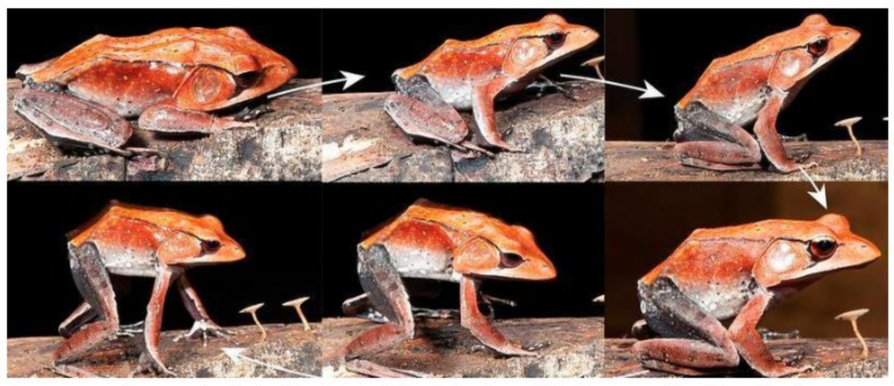
All the sessions will be held at Infosys Science Foundation, Bengaluru.

Study reveals rare defence traits in Indian frogs

Sarath Babu George
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Scientists from the University of Delhi have, for the first time, documented rare and contrasting anti-predator behaviours in two frog species from India: one that shrieks and bites attackers, and another that suddenly elevates its body to intimidate threats.

The findings, published in *Herpetological Notes*, were made by a team from Delhi University’s Systematics Lab, led by herpetologist S.D. Biju. The study reveals remarkable and previously unrecorded defence strategies among Indian amphibians.



A sequence of images displaying the body-raising behaviour of the bicoloured frog from Kerala. S.D. BIJU

The nocturnal apatani horned toad (*Xenophrys apatani*), endemic to Arunachal Pradesh, relies on its cryptic, leaf-litter-like colouration to remain undetected during the day. When threatened or approached, it inflates its body, emits a piercing distress call and may even bite the intruder. Such behaviour was first noticed during field photography and later confirmed experimentally.

In contrast, the bicoloured frog (*Clinotarsus curtipes*), a diurnal species from the Western Ghats in Kerala, typically found on the forest floor among leaf litter, was observed to arch its body upwards by vertically extending its limbs when disturbed. This posture, believed to make it appear larger and more intimidating, was documented in the wild and later tested using a threat stimulus.

The observations mark the first records of biting and body-raising as defensive strategies among India’s 419 known frog species. Of the 7,876 known frog species globally, around 650 are reported to display such behaviours. However, such natural history observations are rarely documented among Indian species.

“These new observations in Indian frogs are just an example of how much remains either undocumented or completely unknown about the natural history and behaviours of our native species,” Prof. Biju points out.

Uneven growth

Increasing incomes and creating jobs are a must to boost demand

The industrial production data for September is especially useful as it provides insights into longer periods such as the second quarter and the first half of the financial year. The news is not all bad, but there are areas that warrant attention. When looked at on a half-yearly basis, the IIP data for April-September 2025 show that industrial growth was the slowest in at least five years. At just 3%, the half-yearly growth is well below what it should be. However, quarterly growth shows that things are improving – Q2 growth was a more robust 4.1%, compared to 2% in Q1. The bright spot in all of this, at least on the surface, has been the manufacturing sector. In September, it grew by 4.8%, the second highest in this financial year. On a quarterly basis, the July-September 2025 quarter saw the manufacturing sector grow by a relatively strong 4.9%, the fastest quarterly growth it has seen since the quarter-ended December 2023. On a half-yearly basis, too, the sector's growth bounced back to 4.1% in the April-September 2025 half, after having slowed to 3.8% in the first half of the previous year. Activity in the mining sector contracted in September 2025, the second quarter, as well as in the first half of the financial year. While some of this can be attributed to the monsoon this year, this performance is still unusually poor. Strengthening the sector should be a priority to shore up India's energy and strategic mineral security.

The manufacturing sector's apparent strong performance, too, is not something that should be taken at face value. The data show that the growth is not broad-based, and is instead concentrated in some sectors. Of the 23 main manufacturing sub-sectors measured in the IIP, more than half contracted in the July-September 2025 quarter. Of concern is that labour-intensive sectors such as apparels, leather products, rubber products and plastics, all contracted in the September 2025 quarter. The sectors that grew included wood products, mineral products, basic metals and fabricated metal products, many of which are more capital intensive. If this trend persists, it could have negative implications for job creation, and warrants attention. The other troubling aspect of the data is that the consumer non-durables sector has contracted for the last six consecutive quarters. While some of these are essential items such as salt and edible oils, others are items of discretionary spending. Much of this is because of the base effect, but slack demand has been a problem that policymakers have been grappling with for some time. The only real solution lies in increasing incomes and creating jobs.

Federalism and funds

State autonomy cannot be bargaining point for availing central financing

Kerala sprang a surprise last week by signing up for the scheme, Prime Minister Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI), that dovetails the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020, to upgrade and brand 14,500 schools nationwide as model institutions. Kerala, one of the three States to oppose the NEP-2020 (the others being Tamil Nadu and West Bengal), on the contention that it sought to encroach on the subject of school education, which is in the Concurrent List, and infuse it with communal bias and anti-scientific content, was evidently looking to gain central funds. Earlier this year, Tamil Nadu had approached the Supreme Court of India after the Centre withheld funds under the Samagra Shiksha (SS) scheme over the State's refusal to adopt the NEP-PM SHRI framework. Kerala's agreement on adopting the scheme is now in freeze after strife within the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) soon after the government signed the PM SHRI Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centre, without Cabinet approval – an issue deferred twice in Cabinet meetings. The CPI, a key LDF partner, demanded an immediate withdrawal. The CPI(M), which holds the general education portfolio, initially defended the decision, arguing that enrolment in PM SHRI was necessary to avail of federal funds withheld under the SS, which had led to salary arrears for teachers and non-teaching staff. The CPI(M) clarified that Kerala remained opposed to the NEP-2020 and would retain control over its school curriculum. The allies reached a détente on Wednesday – a cabinet subcommittee will scrutinise the MoU. Implementation of PM SHRI will remain suspended until the subcommittee's recommendation. The Centre will be formally informed of this decision.

Kerala has long excelled in school education, achieving near-universal gross enrolment ratio, high retention rates, superior learning outcomes, and modern infrastructure – milestones that render many NEP-2020 targets redundant in the State. For Kerala, PM SHRI amounts to little more than cosmetic rebranding of already high-performing institutions, but the State would be forced to comply with provisions of the NEP-2020 for integration of 'Indian Knowledge Systems', which many reckon is a euphemism for pseudoscience. It is regrettable that the Centre withholds federal funds under the SS to arm-twist States into accepting NEP-2020 or PM SHRI. While Tamil Nadu has pursued legal redress, its case has not received the judicial urgency it warrants. In India's federal polity, the judiciary must robustly defend cooperative federalism whenever it is undermined. As Kerala pauses PM SHRI, it must consider litigation to secure its rightful share of central funds. Federalism and State autonomy cannot be bargaining points in the quest for funds.

An amended Constitution Bill, its contentious issues

R.K. Vij
is a former IPS officer

Shivani Vij
is a lawyer

The central government recently introduced the Constitution (One Hundred And Thirtieth Amendment) Bill in Parliament to amend Article 75, Article 164 and Article 239AA of the Constitution which pertain to the Union Council of Ministers, State Council of Ministers and the special administrative provisions for Delhi, respectively. The Bill has been referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

The Bill provides that in case a Minister is arrested and detained in custody for 30 consecutive days, for an alleged offence punishable with imprisonment which may extend up to five years or more, he shall be removed from office by the President, on the advice of the Prime Minister, which is to be tendered by the 31st day of such custody. Or, he shall cease to be a Minister in case such advice is not tendered by then. A similar provision is provided for Ministers in State Assemblies, who shall be removed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister. In the case of the Prime Minister and Chief Minister of a State, they are required either to tender their resignation by the 31st day or else shall (automatically) cease to be the Prime Minister or Chief Minister of a State.

What was contentious for the Opposition

The two contentious issues that forced the Opposition to come together against the Bill were 'arrest' by the police and authorising 'detention' by a court. Since, wide discretion lies with both, there needs to be scrutiny of the Bill to ensure that it is not misused.

The first parameter to remove a Minister is arrest, which is discretionary and in the hands of the enforcement agencies. While the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) provides for the enforcement of some conditions before there is an arrest for offences that are punishable for up to seven years of imprisonment, it is not mandatory for a police officer to arrest any person accused of commission of a cognisable offence that is punishable with imprisonment even for more than seven years.

The Madras High Court, in *Deenan vs Jayalalitha* (1989), refused to interfere in the police investigation when the petitioner pleaded before the High Court to use its inherent powers to direct the Commissioner of Police to arrest the respondent, Jayalalithaa.

The High Court said that the words 'may arrest' under Section 41 showed that the power of arrest is discretionary and that a police officer is not always bound to make an arrest for cognisable offences. Though he has the power to arrest, he can refrain from arresting persons, depending upon the nature of the offence and the circumstances unfurled not only in the complaint but also during the course of investigation. The authorised power of arrest of an offender by a private person is restricted to cases of commission of non-bailable and cognisable offences in his presence and to the case of the proclaimed offender, not otherwise.

There needs to be greater scrutiny of the Constitution (One Hundred And Thirtieth Amendment) Bill and its focus on 'arrest'

In *Joginder Kumar vs State of U.P.* (1994), the Supreme Court of India observed that no arrest can be made only because a police officer is authorised to do so. The police officer must be able to justify the arrest. Arrest and detention in a police lock-up of a person can cause incalculable harm to the reputation and self-esteem of a person, the Court said.

In another case, *Amarawati And Anr. (Smt.) vs State Of U.P.* (2004), the Bench of the Allahabad High Court, after carefully examining the definition of 'cognisable offence', provisions of Section 41 and Section 157 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), held that the Legislature has consciously used the words 'may arrest' and it was not mandatory for the police to make an arrest in a cognisable offence. Section 157 of the CrPC empowers the police to investigate a cognisable offence and arrest the accused, if required.

In 2009, in an amendment of Section 41 of the CrPC, some distinction was made for arrest in offences punishable with imprisonment extendable up to seven years and offences punishable with over seven years of imprisonment. However, Section 41A of the CrPC, which provides for issuing notice of appearance (when arrest of a person is not required), does not make a differentiation between offences based on their term of imprisonment. The Supreme Court, in *Satender Kumar Antil vs CBI and Anr.* (2022), held that the investigating agencies are bound to comply with the provisions of Section 41 and Section 41A CrPC. Section 35 of the BNSS is *pari materia* to Sections 41 and 41A of the CrPC, read together.

There could be misuse

While the continuation of Ministers in the cabinet with serious criminal charges does not augur well for constitutional morality, the misuse of this discretionary power of arrest by the police to target leaders of the Opposition parties cannot be ruled out. High Courts have repeatedly taken objection for not following the directions issued in *Arnesh Kumar vs State of Bihar and Another* (2014) which mandated that the investigating officer record reasons and material which necessitated the arrest. The National Police Commission (1977) in its third report observed that nearly 60% of the arrests were unnecessary or unjustified. Given such a scenario, where the police are alleged to be amenable to political pressure, 'arrest' may be used as a political tool to initiate the unseating of Ministers in Opposition parties.

The second parameter is continuous detention in custody for "thirty consecutive days", which signifies the importance of bail. If a Minister is able to obtain bail within this period, disqualification under Article 75(5A) would not operate. Though the Supreme Court has repeatedly reaffirmed the principle that 'bail is the rule, jail is the exception', bail is often rejected for factors other than the triple test – i.e., flight risk, possibility of tampering with evidence, and threatening of witnesses. For instance, the gravity or seriousness of an offence is considered to be an important fourth factor, despite its conflict with the presumption of innocence of the accused. So, while bail may be granted in early stages in economic offences, it is extremely difficult in heinous offences unless the accused has undergone considerable incarceration.

The main issues

The new Amendment does not account for default bail under Section 167(2) CrPC (*pari materia* Section 187, BNSS). Default bail is the right of an accused person when the investigation is not completed within 60 days to 90 days (depending on the gravity of the offence) of his custody. Since the cumulative period of police and judicial remand itself exceeds 30 days, the embargo under Article 75(5A) does not seem to be rational. It is true that remand is not mandatory jail time and needs to be extended by the court at intervals, but courts readily grant this extension within the outer limits of 60 days to 90 days.

Further, the phrase 'an offence under any law for the time being in force' includes complaints filed under special statutes such as PMLA (money laundering), NDPS (narcotics), and UAPA (unlawful activity). This is even more dangerous since all special statutes have the infamous twin conditions of bail that are not present in the CrPC/BNSS. First, the accused must prove that he is not guilty of the offence, and second, that he would not commit an offence while on bail. As opposed to trial, these conditions must be satisfied at the stage of bail itself. They are often termed onerous and reverse the burden of proof from the prosecution to the accused. The Manish Sisodia case, where he was accused in the liquor policy scam, is a case in point – bail was granted 17 months after his incarceration under the PMLA. This being the norm for special statutes, the threshold of "thirty consecutive days" under the new Amendment Bill would be an abysmally low benchmark to cross. Removal from office would be extremely damaging.

Another factor which may hinder bail to a Minister is their ability to influence witnesses due to their position of power, which is considered significant to an investigation and trial. A Minister may be faced with a Hobson's choice – either continue or get bail. Staying on as a Minister would jeopardise bail and therefore mean removal under the amended provisions, while resigning would prevent him from carrying out ministerial duties even if bail was granted.

A last factor that makes bail uncertain and vulnerable is whether the judge concerned has a *pro* or *ante* liberty stance under Article 21. Leaving aside the objective facts of a case, this brings about enormous subjectivity and discretion in granting bail.

A decade after Paris accord, an unstoppable transition

Benoît Faraco
is France's Special Envoy for Climate Negotiations and a former Senior Energy and Environment Adviser to the French President

Ten years after the adoption of the Paris Agreement at COP21, the planet faces unprecedented challenges. Despite a shared global pledge to limit global warming well below 2°C and keep the 1.5°C target within reach, emissions and temperatures continue to rise at alarming rates. The devastating consequences of climate change are already visible across the globe, including in India, as seen this year in Uttarakhand, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

Yet, the Paris Agreement is delivering. Ten years ago, before the adoption of the Paris Agreement, the world was heading towards global warming of around 4°C-5°C by the end of the century. Through sustained commitment and concrete and collective action, this curve was altered to approximately 2°C-3°C. This remains far above what science deems sustainable, as underscored by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). But it demonstrates that collective action can have an impact on our collective trajectories and that multilateralism can work.

The Paris Agreement delivers because it is fair, just and promotes international solidarity with the countries most affected by the adverse impacts of climate change. It respects national circumstances and provides for differentiated levels of commitment.

A turning point

Throughout the decade, the Paris Agreement has been a powerful instrument that engaged the world's economy on the path to a low carbon transition. Ten years ago, the most competitive way to produce energy was fossil fuel use. It is no longer the case. Today, everywhere in the world, renewable energies such as wind, solar, hydroelectricity are driving growth and jobs. This marks tremendous progress for energy security and sovereignty.

Ten years ago, electric mobility seemed an elusive dream. Today, thanks to remarkable advances in battery technology and energy storage, electric vehicles represent nearly 20% of global new car sales, heralding the drastic reduction of fossil fuels in transport, bringing also multiple co-benefits such as clean air to our cities. The scale of this transformation is monumental.

The Paris Agreement is an example of climate progress and how multilateralism can work

The impressive example of the solar alliance

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is a striking example of the commitment by India and France to strong international multilateralism for climate progress.

Conceived at COP21 in Paris and jointly launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and then French President François Hollande, the ISA stands as a compelling embodiment of India and France's shared commitment to climate multilateralism. At the COP30 in Belém, France and India shared a joint vision: we needed this kind of alliance to transform the hope of the Paris Agreement into action.

Since its inception, the ISA has grown into a global coalition of more than 120 member and signatory countries, delivering concrete results through capacity building, training programmes and financial mechanisms supporting underfunded energy transitions. It was inspiring to witness first-hand the remarkable achievements of the ISA at its Eighth Assembly that this writer co-chaired on October 28, 2025, with India's Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Pralhad Joshi. The ISA's mission remains vital: to make solar energy accessible to all.

India has a strong commitment to renewable energies, more than half of which will come from solar. India aims to become the largest major economy to develop using a low-carbon pathway, fulfilling the vision of "Viksit Bharat" by 2047 and achieving net-zero carbon emission by 2070. This year, India has demonstrated leadership by achieving 50% of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil sources, five years ahead of the 2030 target.

These efforts must be sustained and expanded across all regions At COP30 in Belém, five priorities must guide the international community.

First, there must be agreement on a way to collectively raise global ambition to accelerate the reduction of carbon emissions. The world's collective efforts are still not sufficient and there is a need to accelerate efforts, for the world's people and its future.

Second, there must be a championing of a just and inclusive transition, placing vulnerable communities at its core. France devotes one-third of its climate finance to adaptation, contributing to the Green Climate Fund, the Loss and Damage Fund, and early warning systems such as CREWS. As co-chair of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure alongside India, France also advocates innovative, predictable climate finance such as global solidarity levies ahead of COP30.

Third, there must be a protection of natural carbon sinks – the world's forests, mangroves and oceans. From the Amazon to the Sundarbans, these ecosystems are the world's best allies in the fight against climate change.

Fourth, there must be an empowerment of non-state actors – local governments, businesses, scientists, philanthropies and citizens – to translate ambition into implementation. The broad engagement that defined COP21 must now deliver tangible results and have a real-world impact that benefits everyone.

Fifth, science must be defended by supporting the IPCC and fighting climate disinformation. Together with Brazil and other countries, France is working to ensure that facts and science, not fear, guide the global transition.

In perspective

The transformation initiated in Paris cannot be reversed. It may face obstacles, but it is unstoppable. Unstoppable because adaptation has become a necessity, not a choice. Unstoppable because industries are investing irreversibly. Unstoppable because local authorities are embedding sustainability into standards and investments. Unstoppable because multilateralism, despite challenges, will continue to deliver if the world continues to believe in it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Courts and a law college

The Madras High Court is set to inaugurate criminal courts and the offices attached thereto are in the very same premises where the Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College was situated earlier. The Law College has been shifted to far-flung places causing inconvenience and hardship to students, particularly girl students. There are immense advantages to having a law college near the High Court. That has been the practice in Mumbai too.

In this context, what is more relevant is that the Tamil Nadu government has not bothered to respect the directions issued in 2024 by the First Division Bench of then Chief Justice Sanjay Gangapurwala and Justice Bharatha Chakravarthy — that the Government Law College should be situated within the city and that the government should identify a suitable place for it. The powers that be have not made any efforts to ensure that the Law College is moved back to the city where it was run for over 100 years in the heritage building so that students can learn from the proceedings of the court.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Norway and India: Green maritime partners

Marianne Sivertsen Naess

Norway's Minister of Fisheries and Ocean Policy

In Mumbai for India Maritime Week 2025, I witnessed the buzz of a global industry that has confidently set sail towards a secure, sustainable, and equitable future. Norway has built up a comprehensive maritime cluster of ship designers, equipment manufacturers, shipyards, shipping companies, financial and insurance institutions, and shipbrokers. Representing the country at an event of this scale that covers every link of the maritime value chain is a privilege rife with possibilities.

Charting a common course

For both Norway and India, oceans and coastlines are natural assets. Oceans connect our economies and our people and are at the heart of our bilateral partnership. India plays a vital role in global shipping. It is not only a hub for trade, shipbuilding and ship recycling, but also offers technological and digital capacity.

The entry into force of the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) on October 1 provides a major boost to the India-Norway partnership. Stronger maritime collaboration is a natural and strategic complement to these shared ambitions. Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre looks forward to welcoming Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Oslo for the 3rd India-Nordic Summit where we will continue the dialogue on ocean cooperation, among other priorities.

In 2019, both countries came together to establish a formal ocean dialogue and an India-Norway Task Force on Blue Economy to focus on sustainable ocean management, mitigation of marine pollution, and green shipping. At Norway's flagship maritime event Nor-Shipping held in Oslo this summer, India made a splash with its first-ever India Pavilion, led by the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal. India's participation left a lasting impression with conversations around sustainable growth, green shipping corridors, shipbuilding, digital maritime solutions and leveraging India's workforce and investment opportunities.

Maritime partners Norway and India have much to contribute to each other, a fact well illustrated by the number of Norwegian companies present in Mumbai for the India Maritime Week. During the event, officials from Norway's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries and the Indian Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways met for the 10th Joint Working Group Maritime, discussing green shipping, maritime training and security as well as ship recycling.

As the global shipbuilding market reaches capacity, India's rapidly growing position as a builder of the global fleet presents exciting opportunities for partnership. Already, about 10% of ships ordered by members of the Norwegian Shipowners' Association are built in India. Norwegian shipowners have longstanding relationships with Indian yards such as Cochin Shipyard, which recently secured 14 vessel orders from Norway's Wilson ASA. This is a testament to the trust and quality that Indian yards deliver. India has also been an excellent partner in the development of environmentally sound and safe ship recycling.

Aiming for a sea change

Norway sees India as a key partner on the journey to a sustainable blue economy. Guided by the principle that environmental responsibility and economic growth must go hand in hand, Norway ambitiously aims to reduce emissions from domestic shipping and fisheries by 50% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels.

Our approach to green shipping combines targeted domestic action with strong international engagement. We support stricter international regulations to cut climate gas emissions from shipping, helping build a global market for low- and zero-emission solutions. We strongly supported the adoption of the International Maritime Organization's Net-Zero Framework, even though consensus has not yet been reached. Over the next year, it is extremely important for member states to unite to ensure this framework becomes a reality.

The green transition in Norway is the result of collaboration between the government, industry, and research institutions. Our maritime sector is exploring new fuels such as ammonia and hydrogen, and Norway has been among the first countries to launch autonomous and fully electric vessels, including the Yara Birkeland, the world's first zero-emission, autonomous container ship, and ASKO ferries.

Norway is committed to advancing women's participation in the maritime industry. I was pleased to be part of the constructive dialogue on gender equality and inclusion at the Maritime SheEO Conference, an initiative that Norway has supported since its inception in 2019. It was deeply inspiring to meet Indian women seafarers, cadets, and captains who are shaping the industry's future.

Indian seafarers are the second largest nationality working aboard Norwegian-controlled vessels. With TEPA, Norway and India have agreed to facilitate on-board training opportunities for our respective seafarers. Even though women are a minority in maritime professions globally, our two countries can make this industry more inclusive and future-ready by sharing best practices.

The Maritime India Vision 2030 and Amrit Kaal 2047 show India's forward-looking maritime strategy and align with Norway's vision for sustainable ocean management. Unarguably, this has been one of the biggest years for the maritime partnership between Norway and India. As major ocean nations, we face common challenges, and with them, a shared responsibility to think globally and act for the benefit of all.

As major ocean nations, Norway and India face common challenges, and with them, a shared responsibility to think globally and act for the benefit of all

For Mayawati, a wasted opportunity

Her Lucknow rally was, in effect, old wine in an old bottle

STATE OF PLAY

Ziya Us Salam
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Early this month, the 19th death anniversary of Kanshi Ram, the founder of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), turned into a show of numerical strength for party chief Mayawati. Tens of thousands of supporters trooped into Lucknow from parts of Uttar Pradesh, and many others came in from Punjab, Haryana, Bihar and Uttarakhand. It was difficult to ignore what was easily the most massive of Ms. Mayawati's rallies in almost a decade.

Her brother, Anand Kumar, and nephew, Akash Anand, stood with her and she spoke uninterrupted for an hour. Clearly still living under the fear of the imaginary clout of a diminished Congress in the State, she railed against dynastic politics. She ranted against the Samajwadi Party (SP), accusing it of selective amnesia when it came to the Dalits of U.P. She was riled up by the actions of upcoming Dalit leader Chandrashekhar Azad 'Ravan' and dubbed him an "opportunist".

She was not all fire and brimstone, however. When it came to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), particularly Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, she was graciousness personified, thanking him for maintaining the huge parks which were built during her time as Chief Minister (2007-12). She even contrasted Mr. Adityanath's actions with those of Mr. Yadav, painting the former largely in positive hues. If she spoke against the BJP, it was merely perfunctory in nature. She also launched into the same old diatribe of '*shadyantra* (conspiracy theory)' by her political opponents against 'Dalit *ki beti* (daughter of Dalit)'. The biggest BSP rally of recent times was, in effect, old wine in an old bottle.

The BSP chief wasted an opportunity to start afresh. This was a chance for Ms. Mayawati to turn a new leaf and talk of emerging issues in the State and the country. She chose instead to duck the issue of the Special Intensive Revision exercise in Bihar, and steer clear of 'bulldozer politics', the row around the Prophet's birthday celebrations, and the recent cruelties against Dalits, particularly in Raebareli. She made little attempt to bring into focus unemployment or inflation, the struggle of zari workers, the carpet weavers, the lock manufacturers, the brassware workers, the kite 'manja' producers or even the closure of primary schools in the State. Or for that matter, custodial deaths and encounter killings.

This was an opportunity too to tell her supporters and detractors alike that she was not soft on Hindutva politics, a perception that has gained ground since 2014 as she has repeatedly been hitting out at the SP and Congress; the former has been out of power in the State since 2017, the latter has been in the Opposition at the Centre for more than a decade. All along, she has shied away from asking questions of the BJP, which is in power both at the State and the Centre. It did not change a bit in Lucknow. She still painted the Opposition in not-so-favourable colours.

Worse, after speaking out against dynastic politics, Ms. Mayawati happily, even brazenly, anointed her nephew as heir apparent, asking the masses to show him the same love they once showered on her. Little did she realise that Mr. Anand is a successor to a kingdom which has long since ceased to exist. The party has no member in the Lok Sabha today and merely one in the 403-member U.P. Vidhan Sabha. For the supremo of a party that does not matter in Delhi, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, and Bihar, she was being unrealistic. For comparison, the Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party and the Nishad Party have six members each in the Assembly. With their dedicated though niche followers, they stay relevant.

Not so Ms. Mayawati. Once the most formidable voice of Jatavs and other marginalised groups, today she has ceded ground to Mr. Azad who is not only drawing under an umbrella the Scheduled Caste and Muslim voters, but also believes in boots-on-the-ground politics. Wherever there is an incident of cruelty towards Dalits or Muslims, he stands shoulder to shoulder with them. Mr. Anand is not to be found there. Worse, nobody questions his absence. That is a sign of irrelevance.

Indeed, the Lucknow rally, which was supposed to be a political renaissance of Ms. Mayawati, ended as an unheeded call for reformation. Mayawati-2025 is like a broken record. In Lucknow, she had the stage and a huge audience too. Yet she fluffed her lines. In the soap opera of U.P. politics, there may not many retakes available.

According to a survey of 25 countries, Indians are least aware of AI

Despite low awareness, Indians expressed the most confidence in government regulation

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

According to a Pew survey covering 25 countries, Indians have the lowest awareness about Artificial Intelligence (AI). The survey found that about 14% of Indians have heard of or read a lot about AI; and another 32% have read a little about it. Together, this share (46%) is the lowest among the countries surveyed.

Chart 1 shows the share of people who have heard of or read a lot or little about AI. At 46%, India's share is well below the 25-country median of 81%.

Although AI is a new technology that young adults are generally expected to know more about, only 19% of Indians aged 18-34 said they have heard of or read a lot about AI. This is the second lowest share in that age group among the 25 countries surveyed **(Chart 2)**.

Consequently, Indians are also among the least concerned about the increasing use of AI in daily life. Close to 19% of them said the increasing use of AI in daily life makes them more concerned than excited. This share is one of the lowest among the countries surveyed **(Chart 3)**.

Nearly 90% of Indians also said they trust that their country will regulate the use of AI effectively. This share is the highest among all the countries surveyed, and by a significant margin **(Chart 4)**.

Wealthier countries tend to have a higher share of people who have heard a lot about AI. Around half the adults in Japan, Germany, France, and the U.S. said they have heard a lot about AI, compared to the 14% in India and 12% in Kenya. **Chart 5** plots the share of people who said they have heard of or read a lot about AI against the GDP per capita of the countries.

Charts 1, 2, 3, and 4 display data for only selected countries out of the 25 surveyed, while Chart 5 includes figures for all countries.

AI awareness: survey results

The data for the charts are sourced from the Pew Research Center's 'How People Around the World View AI' (October 2025). For non-U.S. data, this analysis draws on nationally representative surveys of 28,333 adults conducted from January 8 to April 26, 2025. Countries are classified as either high- or middle-income based on categories from the World Bank that rely on per capita gross national income

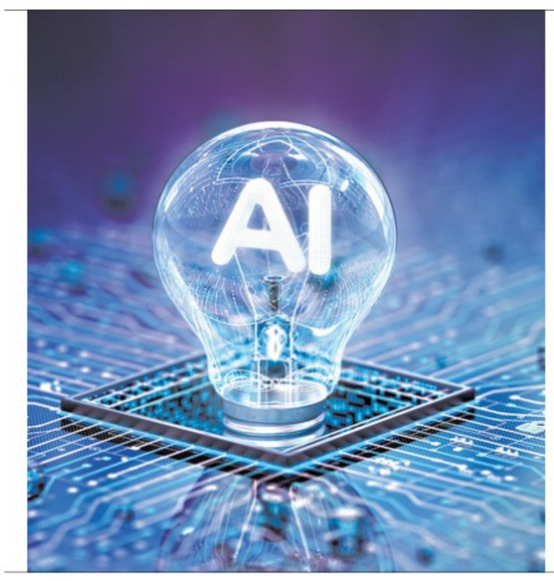


Chart 5: Share of respondents who said they have heard or read a lot about AI against the country's GDP per capita

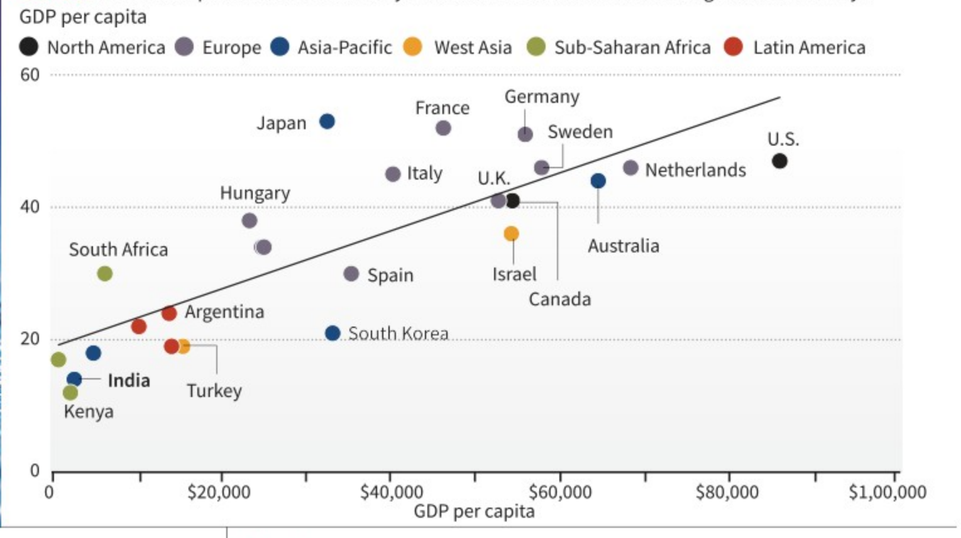


Chart 1: Country-wise share of respondents who said they have heard or read a lot or a little about AI. Figures in %

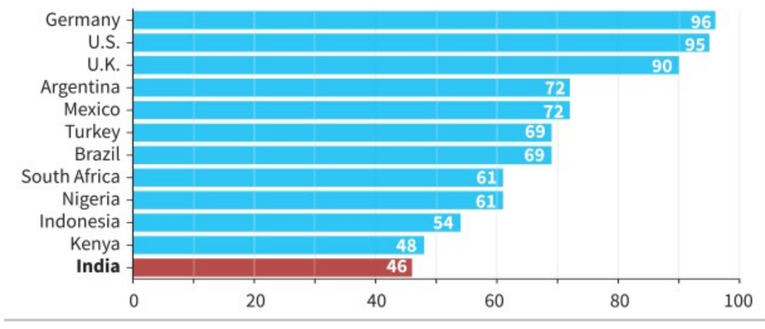


Chart 2: Country-wise share of respondents aged 18-34 who said they have heard or read a lot about AI. Figures in %

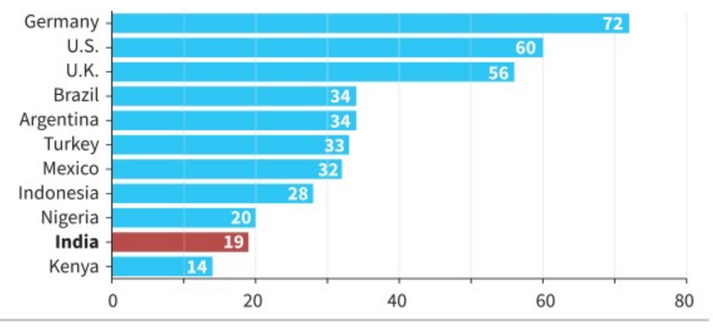


Chart 3: Country-wise share of respondents who said the increased use of AI in daily life makes them feel more concerned than excited

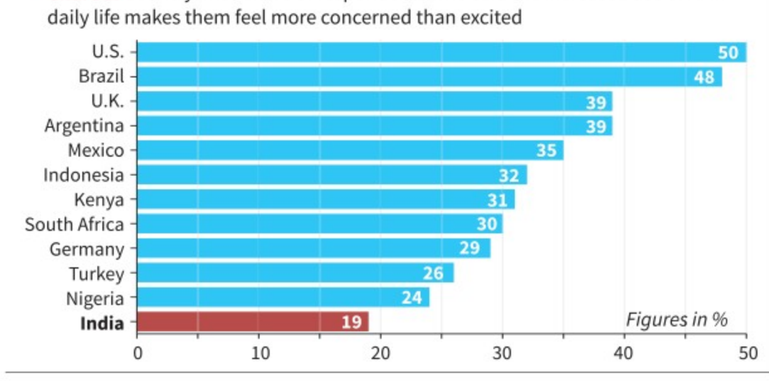
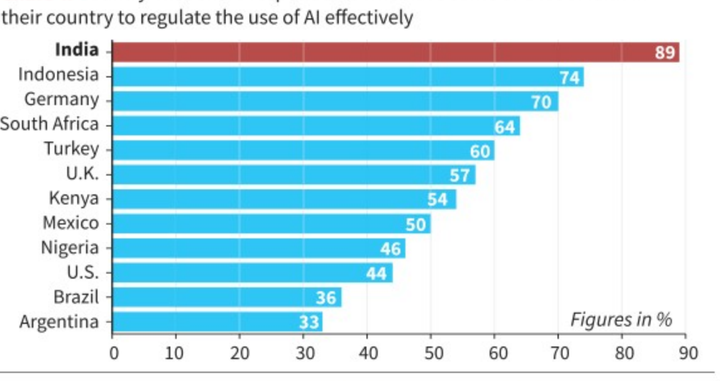


Chart 4: Country-wise share respondents who have some or a lot of faith in their country to regulate the use of AI effectively



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 30, 1975

'Terrorised' diplomats change their life styles

London, Oct. 29: Extremist action by an assortment of political crusaders has in the past decade transformed the lifestyles of hundreds of foreign diplomats accredited to the Court of St. James's in London. In the wake of murders, kidnappings and bomb attacks around the world, most envoys, and especially those with sensitive missions, live in peril even in London.

Some, like the Israelis, work in buildings fortified by barbed-wire entanglements behind electronically controlled sets of steel doors, floodlit at night, guarded round-the-clock by a posse of armed police. Others, including the Russians, Arabs and Israelis, have installed special alarm circuits which link them with the nearest police station in case of sudden attack. Certain key ambassadors, notably Mr. Elliot Richardson of the U.S., never move out of their offices or homes without an armed bodyguard or secret serviceman on hand. And virtually, every sizable foreign diplomatic mission here reinforces the protection given to it by the British authorities with its own internal security officers who invariably are armed.

The overworked British security services in the past few years have suspected that one terrorist group may sometimes link up with another. There is said to be some evidences in police dossiers, for example, that the militant provisional wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) has at times worked with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

A consequence of the ever-rising peril for foreign envoys was a British police decision last year to form a 'diplomatic protection unit' within its special branch. The unit consists mainly of uniformed men in flying motorcycle or automobile squads who rush to the scene upon receipt of an alarm signal from any given embassy.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 30, 1925

New plantations in Sumatra

London, Oct. 29: The list has been closed for the issue of 1,400,000 Allied Sumatra Plantations Limited, pound sterling shares at 21 shillings a share. The Company's property will consist of 47,973 acres on the East Coast of Sumatra including 26,190 planted acres, of which 10,970 will be planted with rubber only, and remainder with rubber, tea, coffee and coconut and oil palms.

From Page One

'FTA talks with EU crossed halfway mark'

The Minister has returned from a three-nation tour over the last week or so, having visited Geneva for the 16th session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Berlin for the Berlin Global Dialogues, and Brussels to "further our negotiations with the European Union" for an FTA.

He further said that, on an increasing number of issues, the two teams are moving towards convergence. The team from the EU is set to visit New Delhi next week for the next round of negotiations, and Mr. Sefcovic will visit the capital at the end of November or in December, the Minister said.

On the question of whether negotiations on the FTA with the EU would be completed by the end of the calendar year, a target set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen in February, Mr. Goyal said that the priority was a "good deal" rather than meeting deadlines.

Cyclone Montha leaves 2 dead, flattens crops

Two districts, SPSR Nellore and Prakasam, received extremely heavy rainfall. In total, 27 stations in the State, most of them in Prakasam, SPSR Nellore, and Bapatla, recorded 10 cm and more during the 24-hour period ending at 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday.

CM reviews measures

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu took stock of the cyclone impact at Odalarevu in Allavaram mandal of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district, Bapatla and Machilipatnam during an aerial survey. Pointing out that Prakasam and Nellore districts bore the brunt of heavy rains, he said damage to crops and assets has been reported in every coastal district. The loss is being enumerated.

Mr. Naidu said the fisherfolk who failed to undertake fishing activities and handloom weavers would be given 50 kg of rice, apart from essential commodities. They will also be paid ₹3,000 per family. The other affected people will get 25 kg of rice. "Our strategy of evacuating people from the vulnerable areas helped minimise loss of life and property. Past experiences of dealing with natural calamities and technology helped us design a robust preparedness plan," Mr. Naidu added.

Israel resumes ceasefire after strikes kill 104

It accused Israel of "a blatant violation of the ceasefire deal". Hamas also said it would delay handing over the body of another hostage to Israel because of the strikes.

U.S. President Donald Trump, on a trip to Asia, defended the strikes, saying Israel was justified in carrying them out after Hamas killed the Israeli soldier, who also held U.S. citizenship.

Mr. Netanyahu on Monday called the return of body parts a "clear violation" of the ceasefire agreement, which requires Hamas to return all the remains of hostages in Gaza as soon as possible.

Israel's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Oren Marmorstein said Washington the strikes were carried out in full coordination with the U.S.

Hamas replied in kind on Wednesday, saying the Israeli strikes reveal "a clear Israeli intention to undermine the ceasefire agreement and impose new realities by force." The group also said in a statement that the U.S. is offering Mr. Netanyahu a "political cover" to carry on with its aggression in Gaza. Hamas has said it is struggling to locate the bodies of the hostages amid the vast destruction in Gaza, while Israel has accused the militant group of purposely delaying their return.

500 Indians in Thailand will be repatriated

The cross-border cyber fraud hubs have become a major issue for the Thai Prime Minister, who said shutting down these hubs is a national security priority for Thailand. In a meeting of the National Steering Committee on the Prevention and Suppression of Technology-related Crimes held in Bangkok on October 20, Mr. Charnvirakul described the cross-border online scam industry as a threat to Thailand's economic stability.

The Myanmar military has been carrying out repeated raids against the KK Park cyber crime hub, prompting around 1,500 people of multiple nationalities to cross into Thailand over the past week. A large number of cyber fraud outfits have set up bases along the Myanmar-Thailand border and in the Cambodia-Laos region, taking advantage of the civil conflict in Myanmar and lax local laws. Many of them are known to use U.S. billionaire Elon Musk's Starlink satellite network to bypass local authorities.

Fake job offers trap Indians

Earlier this year,the Indian Air Force carried out an airlift operation repatriating 283 Indians who had been "lured to various southeast Asian countries, including Myanmar with fake job offers", according to the MEA.

Indian maritime sector has seen historic progress: Modi

PM launches initiatives worth ₹2.2 lakh crore for shipping and shipbuilding sectors at Maritime Leaders' Conclave; amid global tensions, India represents autonomy and inclusive growth, he says

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

The progress in India's maritime domain has been historic and the capability of major ports has doubled, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday.

"Cargo movement has increased 700% in inland areas. Today, India's ports are considered among the best in the developing world," he added.

Mr. Modi was speaking at the Maritime Leaders' Conclave held at the NESCO Ground to mark 'India Maritime Week'.

"When the global seas are rough, the world looks for a steady lighthouse. India can play that role very strongly. Amid global tensions, India represents autonomy and inclusive growth," Mr. Modi said, hinting at the prevailing global trade headwinds.

During the event, Mr. Modi launched initiatives worth ₹2.2 lakh crore for the shipping and shipbuilding sectors, including acquisition of 437 vessels.

Narendra Modi at an exhibition during the Maritime Leaders' Conclave at the India Maritime Week event in Mumbai. PTI

Several memoranda of understanding (MoUs) for port-led industrialisation, sustainability, and shipbuilding, among others, were signed.

Sign of confidence

"In 2016, the maiden India Maritime Week was held in Mumbai. Today, it has become a global summit. Eighty-five countries participate in it today. This itself sends a very big message," Mr. Modi said.

"The MoUs signed here show the confidence of the world in India's maritime capabilities."

"This [2025] is a crucial year for the country's maritime capabilities. The Vizhinjam deep water transit hub has been operational. It is a matter of pride for every Indian. Kandla port and the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) have shown great capabilities. The JNPT's handling capability has doubled, making it India's biggest container port," he added.

Speaking about reforms undertaken by the government to improve shipping and port efficiency and safety, Mr. Modi said, "We are taking big steps. Modern and futuristic laws have been implemented and old laws scrapped. They strengthen sustainability and enhance digitisation in ports. The safety of our ports has increased and ease of business has improved."

Logistics performance

Praising logistics performance of Indian ports, Mr. Modi said, "In the Logistics Performance Index of the World Bank, India had performed better."

"Shipbuilding is our top priority too. India is making great strides in shipbuilding," he said, adding, "New alternatives for finance and easy credit will be offered."

"We welcome your ideas, innovation and investment. Public-Private Partnerships [PPP] have been increasing. We are giving incentives to States to attract investment," he told the attendees at the conclave.

India, China hold fresh round of talks on border peace

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

It was the first such interaction between the two militaries after the Special Representatives' talks in August

The Indian and Chinese militaries held a fresh round of high-level talks aimed at maintaining peace and security along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

It was the first such interaction between the two militaries after the Special Representatives' talks in August between National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the 23rd round of India-China Corps Commander-level meeting was held on October 25 at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point.

This was the first meeting of the General Level Mechanism in the Western Sector since the 24th round of Special Representatives' talks held on August 19. The discussions, the Ministry said, were held in a "friendly and cordial atmosphere".

The Ministry added that both sides had reviewed the progress since the 22nd round of Corps Commander-level Meeting held in October 2024 and shared the view that peace and tranquillity have been maintained in the border areas. The two sides agreed to continue using existing mechanisms to resolve any issues on the ground and to maintain stability along the LAC.

The Chinese Ministry of National Defence also confirmed the talks, stating that "the two sides engaged in active and in-depth communication on the management of the western section of the China-India border".

The latest round of talks comes amid ongoing efforts by both nations to sustain dialogue and prevent incidents along the contested frontier, where disengagement efforts have been under way since 2020.

President takes sortie in Rafale fighter jet, calls it 'unforgettable experience'

Press Trust of India
AMBALA (HARYANA)

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday took a sortie in a Rafale fighter jet from the Indian Air Force Station in Ambala, and described the experience as "unforgettable", and one that instilled a "renewed sense of pride" in India's defence capabilities.

Ms. Murmu made history as she became the first President of India to fly in two different fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force. Previously, she undertook a sortie in a Sukhoi 30 MKI, in April 2023, from Tezpur in Assam.

Donning a G-suit and sporting sunglasses, Ms. Murmu, who is also the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian armed forces, was seen posing for pictures and flashing a thumbs-up gesture before the French-made jet, flown by Group Captain Amit Gehani, Commanding Officer of the 17 Squadron, took off at 11.27 a.m. The sortie lasted approximately 30 minutes, covering about 200 km. The aircraft reached a height of about 15,000 feet above sea level, and a speed of approximately 700 kmph, according to a statement from the President's office.

Flying high: President Droupadi Murmu before taking a sortie in a Rafale fighter jet in Ambala on Wednesday. ANI

Upon landing, the President shared her delight in the visitor's book. "The sortie on Rafale is an unforgettable experience for me. This first flight on the potent Rafale aircraft has instilled in me a renewed sense of pride in the nation's defence capabilities. I congratulate the Indian Air Force," she wrote.

Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh also flew a sortie in a separate aircraft from the same air base.

Upon arrival in Ambala, the President was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour. Prior to the flight, Ms. Murmu was pictured with Squadron Leader Shivangi Singh, the country's first woman Rafale fighter jet pilot.

Top court allows Angmo to launch a keener challenge to Wangchuk's detention

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed Gitanjali J. Angmo to launch a keener challenge against the Centre for detaining her husband and climate activist Sonam Wangchuk under the National Security Act.

In her application seeking amendment of her earlier petition, Ms. Angmo alleged that the Union Home Ministry had nursed "strong reservations" about Mr. Wangchuk's inclusion in the High-Powered Committee delegation of the Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance formed to hold talks with the government on the issues of Statehood and Sixth Schedule safeguards for Ladakh.

She denied that Mr. Wangchuk used the platform of protest to target the government, noting that "such allegations surfaced for the first time only in the last two months, August and September 2025, which immediately resulted in notices and actions against his institutions, including cancellation of land leases, CBI investigation, FCRA cancellation, Income Tax summons, and other proceedings".

Gitanjali J. Angmo

Ms. Angmo accused the detaining authority of "malicious intent", pointing out that state action began suddenly just two months before the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh, elections, scheduled for October 2025 and at a time when Mr. Wangchuk publicly raised the issue of fulfilling the Sixth Schedule promises made during the 2020 elections.

Mr. Wangchuk was detained on September 26 under the NSA following violent protests on September 24 in Leh. He was shifted to the Jodhpur Central Jail in Rajasthan.

"The brazen allegation that Mr. Sonam Wangchuk has acted as chief provocateur in the violent protest that took place on 24 September 2025 is false, malicious and fabricated and entirely contrary to the material on record... On the contrary, Mr. Sonam Wangchuk has made significant contributions in support of national security and the Armed Forces," Ms. Angmo said.

The court scheduled the case to hear the Centre's response on November 24.

2-day online camp offers positivity skill training for teens

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

With teenagers facing increasing pressure in school and competitive exams, during comparison with peers and due to online influences, many of them struggle with stress and low self-esteem.

MiTran Global's Imparting Positivity Camp offers a two-day online programme for those aged 11-17, blending academic skills with emotional resilience. *The Hindu in School* is the media partner.

The camp will offer three signature modules: I Love Exams, Accelerated Learning Methodology and Positive Mind Mastery. There will be a graduation ceremony and one-on-one coaching. Every student will receive a workbook and a certificate.

MiTran Global
Every child has the right to feel Positive
imparting positivity camp for teens
FUELING GROWTH THROUGH THE POWER OF POSITIVITY
Media Partner
THE HINDU

To register, log on to hub.mitranglobal.com/services/ipc. The camp will be held on November 1 and 2 between 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. or 2.30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m. Entries are limited to 25 students per slot. The fee is ₹1,999.

For more details, call 74832 59966.

Japan's new PM calls Modi, discusses Quad, economic and security issues

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India and Japan would like to open a "golden chapter" in their ties, said Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, who held her first conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday, a week after she took office. The conversation, which lasted about 25 minutes, focused on the Quad, economic and defence cooperation, and the mobility of professionals, both sides said.

In a post, Mr. Modi said he had discussed their "shared vision for advancing the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, indicating India and Japan will move forward with the initiatives and agreements signed during Mr. Modi's visit to Japan in August. Mr. Modi had then met with Ms. Takaichi's predecessor Shigeru Ishiba, who subsequently had to resign from office.

The Japanese Prime Minister's office said that Ms. Takaichi stated that India and Japan share "fundamental values and strategic interests".

"Japan intends to continue to work together toward realizing a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, including through Japan-Australia-India-U.S.," it said in statement, adding that Japan will continue its cooperation with India on security, economy, investment, innovation, and people-to-people exchanges. In a post responding to Mr. Modi on social media, Ms. Takaichi said that she would like to open a "new golden chapter in the Japan-India Special Strategic and Global Partnership", along with Mr. Modi.

The new Japanese Prime Minister has met many of her Asian and Indo-Pacific counterparts already, as she attended the ASEAN summit in Kuala Lumpur last week, that Mr. Modi pulled out of. Ms. Takaichi will be in Gyeongju in South Korea for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit on Thursday.

When asked about whether she will meet Chinese President Xi Jinping, who will hold a summit with U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday morning, Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara said that her schedule is still being finalised.

The conversation between the two Prime Ministers came a day after Mr. Trump's visit to Japan, when Ms. Takaichi had also referenced the Quad.

BIHAR ASSEMBLY ELECTION

MLA among 10 expelled by RJD for rebellion

The RJD in Bihar on Wednesday expelled 10 of its leaders, including an MLA who is contesting the Assembly election against the party's official candidate after being denied a nomination. RJD State president Mangani Lal Mandal said that Phate Bahadur Singh, the MLA for Dehri, and nine others had been expelled for "anti-party activities". The list of expelled leaders includes State vice-president Satish Kumar and former MLAs Gulam Jilani Warsi and Reyazul Haq Raju. This comes two days after the expulsion of 27 leaders, including two sitting MLAs and five former legislators. BJP IT cell head Amit Malviya shared the latest list of leaders expelled from the RJD on X and said, "At this rate, the party will soon be left without any workers as well as voters." PTI

Phate Bahadur Singh, the MLA for Dehri, and nine others have been expelled by the RJD.

'Nitish's CM post unsure, BJP not consulting him'

Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Wednesday said that winning the Bihar Assembly election was crucial not only for the *Mahagatbandhan* (Grand Alliance) but also for the country. He took a dig at Janata Dal(U) chief Nitish Kumar's relationship with the BJP in Bihar. He said, "...Nitish Kumar changed alliances... which tarnished his image. He was once a prime ministerial candidate, but today, even the BJP isn't consulting him properly." Mr. Gehlot, the Congress observer for the State, said, "The BJP, whether it's Amit Shah or any other leader, keeps saying things like 'We will see who will become the CM after the elections.' So, he was once thinking about becoming the PM, and now, whether he will become the Chief Minister or not... this is the situation." PTI

> The people of Bihar have to decide if they want a factory made here or in other States. Lalu and Nitish are the root of all troubles in Bihar
>
> **PRASHANT KISHOR**
> Jan Suraaj Party founder

Conflict among NDA allies over CM face: Karat

Senior CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat said on Wednesday that there was a huge internal conflict among the NDA partners in Bihar over the Chief Minister's face. The people of Bihar had understood that Nitish Kumar would not become the next CM, if the NDA wins the elections, she said. PTI

> Our approach is centred around solutions to the issues that matter to the people. Those solutions form our manifesto... and our vision for Bihar
>
> **KRISHNA ALLAVARU**
> Congress Bihar in-charge

Dhananjay has been associated with the AISA since 2015 and is contesting on CPI(ML) Liberation ticket.

Fresh from campus politics, Dhananjay gets into the big ring

Ashna Butani
NEW DELHI

Months after completing his tenure as the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) president, Dhananjay says his tenure, combined with his experience as a migrant student in Delhi, has brought him where he is today: contesting the Bihar Assembly election.

Originally from Gaya, Mr. Dhananjay became the first Dalit president of the JNUSU in 27 years, and is now contesting from the Bhorey (Scheduled Caste reserved) constituency, which will go to the polls in Phase 1 on November 6.

Associated with the All India Students' Union (AISA) since 2015, he is contesting from the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation, a constituent of the Grand Alliance in Bihar. Mr. Dhananjay is up against Sunil Kumar from the Janata Dal(U), to whom the party had narrowly lost this seat in the previous election by 462 votes.

While his journey into politics is heavily rooted in student politics, he does not conflate the two but addresses the similarities: "The people for whom I am in politics today, their children study in JNU. The issues in JNU were linked to what is happening back at home. On one hand, in JNU, we raise our voice for national and international issues. Here, there is class and caste, people struggling for two rotis..."

In 2024, he was elected JNUSU president. Whether it was understanding students' problems and addressing their issues – ranging from mosquito infestations to the need for sanitary napkin-vending machines – he says he learnt how to address people's issues.

Back in school, he would read newspapers and discuss issues with friends, but did not know much about the right or the left. When he came to the Delhi University (DU), he became associated with the AISA's fight against the implementation of the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP). He did his Bachelor's degree in DU, MA from Ambedkar University, Delhi, M.Phil. and now Ph.D. from the School of Arts and Aesthetics of the JNU.

His experience as a student was what eventually pulled him in: "As migrant students, the situation at home might not be great, we didn't speak good English and we were left behind in many aspects, be it social, economic or cultural. We wanted to speak up but hesitated due to our class and caste status." He added that the AISA represented such students, which is what connected him to the organisation.

He is currently pursuing his Ph.D. thesis on Mushaira as a performance art, where he explores the idea of secularism in Mushaira and how it is changing under the current political scenario.

Domicile policy

While student issues feature in his campaign, there are other issues which he wants to address if elected. Speaking about the domicile policy in school teachers' appointment, which will give priority to youth who have studied in the State, he says, "What about those people who did not study here because of the bad state of education, like myself. Will they not get jobs?"

Other issues he wants to address include debt relief up to ₹2 lakh for women who have taken loans from microfinance institutions, and compensation for farmers whose crops have been damaged due to natural disasters.

His father is a retired policeman and his mother a homemaker. As JNUSU president, he worked for revoking a manual that imposes strict fines on students for protesting, among other issues.

Nitish just a facade of BJP, says Rahul; CM, PM posts not vacant for sons: Shah

Congress leader says BJP remote-controlling Nitish Kumar government in State; CM failed to provide basic needs of Biharis despite 20 years in power, he adds; Home Minister calls *Mahagatbandhan* a *thugbandhan;* accuses RJD, Congress of being corrupt, promoting dynastic politics

IN FOCUS

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Congress and BJP leaders flung insults at each other in poll-bound Bihar on Wednesday in a busy day of campaigning for political bigwigs, a week ahead of the first phase of voting.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi kicked off his election campaign in Muzaffarpur, where he accused the BJP of "remote-controlling the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led government in Bihar".

At a rally in Darbhanga, senior BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah asserted that there was "no vacancy for either the PM or CM post" for Rahul Gandhi or Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav. In Siwan, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath mocked Osama Shahab, the RJD candidate from Raghunathpur, saying that he was "as good as his name".

Star campaigners: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi interacts with people at Sakra in Muzaffarpur on Wednesday; (right) Union Home Minister Amit Shah lifts a mace during a public rally in Samastipur. ANI

Over Nitish's leadership

Addressing a public meeting amid intermittent rain in Muzaffarpur, Mr. Gandhi pitted the Chief Minister and his Janata Dal (United) party against their main allies in the ruling NDA.

"Nitish Kumar's face is being used while the remote control lies in the hands of the BJP," he said, sharing the stage with Mr. Yadav, the Chief Ministerial candidate of the Opposition INDIA bloc. "You should not think the voice of even most Backward Class people is heard here. In fact, three-four people control the government through remote. The BJP controls it... Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's leadership is only a façade as the real power lies in the hands of the BJP," he added.

The Congress leader claimed that the ruling NDA has no "commitment" to social equality.

He recalled how he had once demanded a nationwide caste census from Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Lok Sabha.

"He did not say a single word... The BJP is against social justice, they do not want it," he said. However, the Union government later decided to count the population by caste during the next Census.

Despite two decades of a Nitish Kumar-led government, "the people of Bihar have been denied progress", Mr. Gandhi said.

"Biharis have no future in Bihar and this is your truth," he added.

"Nitish Kumar has failed to deliver even on basic needs. Tell me what he has done on the fronts of health, education, and employment in the State in the last 20 years? Do you want a State where you get nothing?" he asked the crowd before answering the question himself.

"We don't want such a Bihar. We want a Bihar where there is health, education, and employment."

"*Ek taraf natak Ambani, Adani ka Hindustan Narendra Modi ka, aur doosri taraf Hindustan ki sacchayee: ganda paani aur bimari* (On one side, there is the drama of Ambani, Adani – the country is of Narendra Modi, while on the other hand, there is the stark reality of the country: dirty water and disease)," the Congress leader said. He also promised a shift from "made in China" to "made in Bihar" products to boost local employment and industry in the State.

Different narrative

It was a different narrative in the Alinagar constituency of north Bihar's Darbhanga district, where Mr. Shah accused the Opposition of indulging in dynastic politics. "RJD chief Lalu Prasad wants to make his son Tejashwi Yadav the Chief Minister of Bihar and Congress leader Sonia Gandhi wants her son Rahul Gandhi to be the Prime Minister but both the posts of PM and CM are not vacant," he said.

Terming the Opposition's *Mahagatbandhan* (grand alliance) a "*thugbandhan* (alliance of frauds)", Mr. Shah accused the RJD chief of being involved in fodder, bitumen, and land-for-job scams, while the Congress was embroiled in corruption cases worth ₹12 lakh crore.

Referring to the Union government's 2022 ban and arrest of members of the Popular Front of India (PFI), a radical outfit, Mr. Shah asked the gathered crowd: "Do you think the RJD will let PFI members remain in jail if they come to power in Bihar?"

Welfare measures

He listed the NDA government's measures for the welfare of Biharis.

"The NDA government provides free ration to 8.52 crore people in Bihar, constituted a Makhana Board here, and provides 125 units of free electricity to domestic consumers... An airport and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) have already been built here, now Darbhanga will soon get a metro rail too," he announced, calling for louder applause.

"The NDA government gave official status to Maithili and the Constitution has been translated into the language and a ₹500 crore centre is being constructed in the region to conserve the rich manuscripts of Mithila. A temple for Goddess Sita is also being constructed in the region and all the places she had visited will be connected with the upcoming Ram Circuit," Mr. Shah added, outlining efforts to promote Bihari language, culture, and tourism.

'As good as his name'

At another meeting at Raghunathpur in Siwan, the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister slammed the RJD's candidature of Osama Shahab, son of former Siwan MP and strongman Mohammad Shahabuddin.

"His entry into the poll fray is like the return of Babar and Aurangzeb," he quipped.

"I was surprised at the name of the candidate when I entered into Raghunathpur constituency. The RJD has fielded a candidate whose name is identical to a person nationally and internationally known for his criminal tendencies. Look at the name Osama Shahab, he is as good as his name," Mr. Adityanath said.

"It may suit parties like the Congress, RJD, and Samajwadi Party to bow before the mafia, visit the tomb of Babar and Aurangzeb to offer prayers, but this does not befit a true Indian," he added.

RJD has defamed Bihar across world through misgovernance, says Rajnath

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

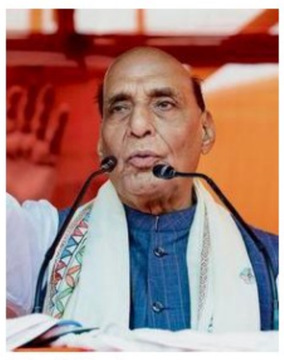
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday criticised Pakistan for failing to mend its ways, and said a "sizeable number of militants have been neutralised during Operation Sindoor".

"You have seen how even after our surgical strikes they did not learn their lessons. Terrorists from Pakistan targeted Indian citizens, tourists who had simply gone there [Pahalgam] to enjoy the beauty of Kashmir and they were killed after being asked about their religion," Mr. Singh said at a public meeting in Darbhanga in poll-bound Bihar.

Mr. Singh said India did not believe in the "politics of division".

"We do not do politics based on caste or religion... our politics is based on justice and humanity," he said, adding that India's response to the Pahalgam attack was both decisive and moral.

"When we launched Operation Sindoor, our goal was clear, to target terrorist camps across the border. They killed our people after asking their religion, we targeted only those responsible for terror," he said.



Rajnath Singh

In Darbhanga, Minister speaks of Operation Sindoor, constitutional status to OBC commission

"India considers the whole world as one family believing in the mantra Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam... Our sages never taught us hatred rather they taught compassion," he added.

Mr. Singh praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "restoring India's pride and stature on the global stage".

He also credited Mr. Modi for granting "constitutional status" to the OBC (Other Backward Classes) Commission, and accused the Opposition *Mahagatbandhan* (Grand Alliance) in Bihar of "misleading people with unrealistic promises".

"It was Prime Minister Narendra Modi and not Rahul Gandhi who gave constitutional status to OBC commission. BJP-led government has always respected the Backward Classes through solid action rather than mere rhetoric."

He claimed that ₹15 lakh crore had been allocated for the all-round development of Bihar in the past 11 years under the Narendra Modi government.

Recalling how Mr. Modi transferred money directly to the bank accounts of women and farmers of the country, he said, "When Prime Minister Narendra Modi transferred money directly into women's bank accounts, did he ever ask if she was a Hindu or Muslim? Similarly, when assistance was given to farmers, did he see their religion?"

"No, every Indian benefited, and this is the spirit of this nation," he said.

Slamming the Rashtriya Janata Dal, the senior BJP leader said the Opposition party "has defamed Bihar across world through its past record of corruption and misgovernance".

He said the Opposition's election promise of providing a government job to every household was "unrealistic and misleading".

"RJD has made unrealistic promise of providing government job to each household in Bihar. This is not practical governance rather, it's a politics of deception," he said.

"Issues in this Assembly election in Bihar is clear: whether the State will be taken back to the jungle raj days or it will remain on the path of development," he said, announcing that the National Democratic Alliance would release its manifesto on October 30 and "implement every single word in it".

Amid poll fever, a missing motorcycle and a happy ending

Amarnath Tewary
DARBHANGA

A story with a rocky start found an "unexpectedly" happy ending in Bihar. It began on August 27, when Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was in Darbhanga during his 14-day 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Bihar, at which time his party colleagues organised a motorcycle rally to neighbouring Muzaffarpur, 52 km away.

Mr. Gandhi's security personnel, after having tea at Maa Durga Line Hotel on National Highway 27, allegedly took the four-year old motorcyle of Suman Saurabh, 21, the owner of the hotel. The two-wheeler was never returned, sending Mr. Saurabh on a desperate hunt for the vehicle. "My lifeline was suddenly snapped," Mr. Saurabh said, recalling how he knocked on all possible doors to no avail.

Three days later, he received a call from Chhattisgarh Congress MLA Devendra Yadav. "He asked me to come to Patna by 7 a.m. on September 1 to take the keys of a new motorcycle from Rahul Gandhi-*ji*," Mr. Saurabh said.

Suman Saurabh with the motorcyle received from Rahul Gandhi. AMARNATH TEWARY

He, along with his father and others reached Patna on time, where Mr. Gandhi met him and handed over the keys to a new Bajaj Pulsar, which he collected from a store in the Boring Road area. "I was thrilled as something unexpected and unprecedented had happened. I am thankful to Rahul Gandhi-*ji* for understanding my concern. The bike costs more than ₹1.5 lakh, which is a big sum for me," he said

INBRIEF

Delhi HC quashes 17-year-old case against Madhu Kishwar

The Delhi High Court has quashed a 17-year-old attempt to murder case against academic and activist Madhu Kishwar, observing that the FIR was "maliciously motivated". The order, passed on October 16, came while allowing Ms. Kishwar's plea seeking to quash an FIR lodged against her in June 2008 for offences of attempt to murder, voluntarily causing hurt, and criminal intimidation under the erstwhile Indian Penal Code. Justice Amit Mahajan said "the subject FIR appears to be in the nature of a defence and a maliciously motivated counterblast ... for wreaking vengeance upon the petitioner."

Urdu is the most beautiful language, says Kiren Rijiju

Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju, on Wednesday, termed Urdu "the most beautiful language in the world". Speaking at the 105th foundation day of the Jamia Milia Islamia University, he also stressed that harmony between Hindus and Muslims was vital for India's progress and unity. "I don't know much of Urdu, but I can say that Urdu is the most beautiful language in the world," he said while praising the songs played at varsity's auditorium. He noted that among the six minorities, Muslims were the biggest community. He added that country cannot develop without Hindu-Muslim harmony.

Rahul promises support to family of deceased doctor

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday spoke to the family of a 28-year-old woman doctor from Maharashtra's Satara district, who allegedly died by suicide after sexual assault and harassment. He assured them of full support in their fight for justice. The conversation was facilitated by Maharashtra Congress president Harshwardhan Sapkal, who visited the family in Kavadgaon village in Beed district. Indian Youth Congress president Uday Bhanu also joined the interaction.Mr. Gandhi reportedly told the parents that Congress stands firmly with them and justice will be ensured at any cost.

Case against Cong. for singing Bangladesh anthem: Himanta

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday said he had instructed the police to register a case of treason against Congress leaders in Sribhumi district for singing the national anthem of Bangladesh at a party meeting. "The Congress meeting started with the singing of Bangladesh's national anthem instead of the Indian national anthem," he said. Mr. Himanta also alleged that singing the anthem was the Opposition party's endorsement of the claim by a section of leaders in Bangladesh that the entire northeast region was part of the neighbouring nation. Meanwhile, the State Congress claimed that the BJP was creating an "unnecessary controversy". PTI

U.N. report on Myanmar 'blinkered', says India

Press Trust of India
UNITED NATIONS

India has strongly condemned what it described as a "blinkered analysis" made against it in a United Nations report on Myanmar's human rights situation, even as it reiterated its call for an immediate cessation of violence and inclusive political dialogue in the neighbouring country.

Delivering India's statement during the Interactive Dialogue on the human rights situation in Myanmar at the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly on Tuesday, Lok Sabha member Dilip Saikia said New Delhi continues to support all initiatives aimed at fostering a "Myanmar-owned and Myanmar-led path" toward peace, and democracy.

"We reiterate our consistent position calling for an immediate cessation of violence, release of political prisoners, unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance," he said. Strongly criticising the remarks made by the UN Special Rapporteur, he said, "I express serious objections to the baseless and biased observation about country."

PM afraid to counter Trump's claims on ending war: Rahul

Congress leader says the Prime Minister must find the courage to respond; when he comes to Bihar, he should state that Trump is lying

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi over U.S. President Donald Trump repeating his claim that he stopped the conflict between India and Pakistan using trade, with Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi saying that the Prime Minister was "scared" of Mr. Trump.

Mr. Gandhi, addressing his first election rally in Bihar's Darbhanga, said Mr. Modi must find the courage to respond and when he comes to Bihar next, he should state that Mr. Trump was lying.

He said the U.S. President had claimed 50 times that he stopped Operation Sindoor by threatening the Prime Minister, who "hasn't uttered a word". Mr. Gandhi said those who lacked the courage could not develop Bihar.

Rahul Gandhi

"Mr. Trump is insulting him [Mr. Modi] daily in different countries. He says Mr. Modi has no guts and he has made him bow before him. Mr. Modi never once said Mr. Trump is speaking nonsense and lying," the Opposition leader said, adding, "One who cannot tell the American President on his face 'you are lying', he cannot do anything in Bihar".

In a post on X later, Mr. Gandhi said, "Mr. Trump is insulting Mr. Modi in country after country. Latest is South Korea. 1. Repeated that he used trade to frighten Mr. Modi into stopping Operation Sindoor. 2. Said 7 planes were shot down. Don't be scared Modi *ji*, find the courage to respond".

On his X handle, Congress general secretary incharge (communications) Jairam Ramesh shared video clips of Mr. Trump's remarks in Japan and later in South Korea in which he repeated his claim that he stopped the India-Pakistan military conflict using trade. In his post, Mr. Ramesh said "the self-styled but now thoroughly shrunken 56-inch chest is still quiet". "So far he has said it 54 times. He has said it in the U.S., Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the U.K. He has said it mid-flight and on land. Now President Trump has said it again, while addressing business leaders in Japan last evening. No wonder his good friend in New Delhi does not want to hug him any more," Mr. Ramesh said.

Pay panel's terms of reference too rigid, says AITUC leader

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) said here on Wednesday that the eighth Central Pay Commission (CPC) should do justice to government employees and pensioners. Criticising the delay in announcing the CPC, AITUC general secretary Amarjeet Kaur said though the decision to constitute the CPC was announced ahead of the Delhi Assembly election in January, it took 10 months for the Centre to constitute the panel. She said the decision went to cold storage and now it was being announced a few days ahead of the Bihar electio .

"It took 10 months for [Prime Minister] Narendra Modi-led government to nominate a chairperson and a part-time member for the Commission. The Commission has been given 18 months' time to submit its report to the government, which means we can expect the report/ recommendations of the 8th Central Pay Commission only during the middle of the year 2027," she said.

Amarjeet Kaur

"By the time the government takes a decision, if it is sincere enough, it may go up to the end of the year 2027. The employees of both Central and State governments have to wait for another two more years to get their wages revised. This is an injustice on them," the trade union leader further said.

Ms. Kaur said the 'Terms of Reference' given by the government to the CPC is so rigid with lots of compulsions to finalise its recommendations, such as the economic conditions and fiscal prudence.

"All these [conditions] comes to the mind of the government only when it comes for giving any benefit to the employees and pensioners," she added.

Cong. slams Centre for using ancient text to draw labour policy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress's Jairam Ramesh says that the Centre is reviving the principles of the *Manusmriti*

Highlighting a portion of the Union Labour Ministry's draft Shram Shakti Niti, 2025, which takes inspiration from *Manusmriti,* the Congress on Wednesday targeted the Narendra Modi government by alleging that it mirrors the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) tradition of preferring the ancient text over the Constitution.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh, in a post on X, claimed that the government is seeking to revive the principles of the *Manusmriti,* a Hindu religious text, through its new labour policy, and the move reflected the ideological influence of the RSS.

Mr. Ramesh claimed that the RSS had opposed the Constitution soon after its adoption for not being based on the *Manusmriti*. "The Modi government's draft Shram Shakti Niti 2025, released earlier this month, claims that the *Manusmriti* embeds the moral basis of labour governance within India's civilisational fabric, centuries before the rise of modern labour law," he said in a post on X.

The Congress leader shared the text of the new policy, which says, "Ancient texts such as the Manusmriti, Yajnavalkyasmriti, articulated this ethos through the concept of rajadharma, emphasising the sovereign's duty to ensure justice, and the protection of workers from exploitation. These early formulations embedded the moral basis of labour governance within India's civilisational fabric".

Developing nations need 12 times more funds to fight climate crisis

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

To adapt to climate change, developing countries will require anywhere from $310-365 billion (at least ₹27 lakh crore) annually by 2035, according to a United Nations analysis. This is nearly 12 times more than the money that currently flows from the developed to the developing world for this purpose.

The analysis, underlining the huge gap between the demand and supply of funds needed to protect developing nations from climate change impacts, appears in *Running on Empty*, an annual report on the shortfall released on Wednesday, ahead of the 30th edition of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP-30) to be held in Belem, Brazil next month.

International public adaptation finance flows to developing countries stood at $26 billion (about ₹2.2 lakh crore) in 2023, down from $28 billion the previous year. If these trends continue, a target agreed upon by countries at the COP-26 in Glasgow, to double adaptation finance to $40 billion by 2025 will be "missed", the report added.

Developing countries need more climate finance to move away from power plants dependent on fossil fuels. FILE PHOTO

Disappointing target

Finance is a significant issue in climate negotiations, as developing countries insist that developed countries pay the costs of adaptation (to deal with climate change impacts) and mitigation (to move away from fossil fuels), as well as compensation for losses and damages already occurring. This total bill is collectively called "climate finance".

At COP-29 in Baku, Azerbaijan last year, developing countries, which were demanding nearly $1.3 trillion annually by 2035, were disappointed when the developed world agreed to only $300 billion, called the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance.

Tuesday's UN report underlines this criticism. "...it is far too evident that the financial resources needed to enable adaptation action in developing countries at the scale necessary to meet the growing challenges of current and future climate risks is woefully inadequate. It will take nothing less than a global collective effort to increase climate finance to the levels articulated in the Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3 trillion," it notes.

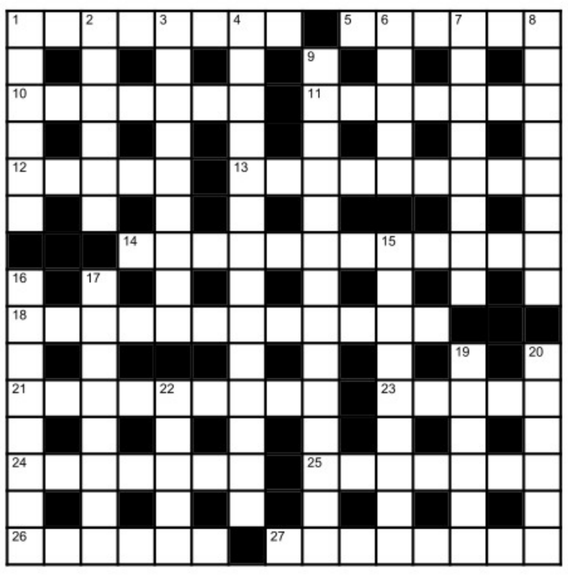
The report also raises concerns that whatever money has been made available at present is primarily classified as 'debt.' Although 70% of international public adaptation finance was concessional in 2022-23, it is "worrisome" that debt instruments continue to dominate these overall flows, comprising 58% on average in that financial year, the report said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14626

(set by Dr. X)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://crossword.thehindu.com*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Police officer arrests primarily unscrupulous locksmith? (8)
5 Old type of firework essentially ignited in fine end to jazz concert (6)
10 Slapped Greek character pinching geisha's butt in Japanese city (7)
11 Support partner in a lawful manner (7)
12 Bag filled with money behind a little unusual shrub (5)
13 Silly piglet ate sheet at front of book (5,4)
14 Sexual intercourse is a thrill with honey going wild (4,2,3,3)
18 What might interest a gemcutter in worthy person lacking manners (5,7)
21 Rum in cola after consuming dope - that's delightful (9)
23 Rubbish outside university on East avenue (5)
24 Be victorious in border, going west to capture rebellious state (7)
25 Starts to eat economically in seedy diner, becoming more impoverished (7)
26 One examining source of teratogenic chemical compound (6)
27 Reviewed report about terrible heat in prison block (5,3)

Down

1 Salmon and special starter of tuna for one sharing emcee duties (2-4)
2 Leaking extremely abhorrent secret eventually (2,4)
3 One found in bathroom with fine dope in excellent hotel (9)
4 One in bulletin lying nervously in an incomprehensible manner (14)
6 Fire spreading! Leave houses (5)
7 Giants in trouble retreated, crushed by barbarians (8)
8 Clergy reformed extremely youthful radical (8)
9 Old men in pub at ground catching glimpse of lovely, fair-haired lady (8,6)
15 Most ravenous tigers vigorously chasing barbarian (9)
16 Couple of drugs for weirdo (8)
17 Entering fancy bar, getting a drink (8)
19 Invalid in Peru becoming more feeble (6)
20 Tongue in hot English stew (6)
22 Maternal relative in US assembly after son's deported (5)

SUDOKU

7				3	5		1	
						7		5
	6			9	1			
		3		7	8			
8		4				3		6
			3	5		8		
			9	1			4	
2		9						
	7		2	6				9

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS6685 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	3	7	2	8	9	6	5	1
9	1	8	6	5	7	4	2	3
2	5	6	4	1	3	7	8	9
6	9	1	8	3	5	2	7	4
8	4	3	1	7	2	9	6	5
7	2	5	9	4	6	3	1	8
5	7	4	3	2	8	1	9	6
1	6	2	5	9	4	8	3	7
3	8	9	7	6	1	5	4	2

FAITH

Like rain-laden clouds

Nammazhvar in his Thiruvaimozhi uses the words *varu mazhai* – the rain that comes in, said Akkarakkani Srinidhi in a discourse. What is this rain that comes into Maaliruncholai? Explaining this verse in his commentary, Nampillai says Maaliruncholai has two kinds of rain! One is the benevolent Kallazhagar, the Lord of the kshetra. He is in Maaliruncholai permanently. He is the eternal cloud that gives, without moving away. But there are the regular clouds, the ones we see everywhere. They come in, give us rain and they move away.

When the Lord took Rama avatara, He showed His fondness for Sabari, who belonged to a clan of hunters. When Ramanuja had to be saved from Yadavaprakasa, who was planning to kill him, Lord Varadaraja of Kanchi and His Consort Perundevi took the form of hunters to save Ramanuja. They left him near a well, from which he took water to the Varadaraja temple every day. Thus they showered their mercy on Ramanuja, and gave the world a great Acharya. Just as Kallazhagar is a cloud that stays in Thirumalirunchola, Varadaraja and Perundevi are clouds that remain forever in Kanchi, blessing devotees.

Ramanujacharya followed the Lord's example. He too was kindness personified, prompting Thiruvarangathamudanar to praise his mercy. Thiruvarangathamudanar wrote Ramanuja Nootrandadi, extolling Ramanuja's admirable qualities. In one verse he describes Ramanuja as *kaarei karunai Ramanuja* – Ramanuja, who is like rain-laden clouds. Just as clouds give without expecting anything in return, so did the Acharya give generously of his knowledge, justifying the comparison to clouds.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	CHANGE %
Sensex	84,997	0.44
US Dollar	88.22	0.07
Gold	1,24,400	2.13
Brent oil	65.24	1.36

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2537.40	43.00
Adani Ports	1454.80	36.90
Apollo Hosp	7858.50	-22.00
Asian Paints	2538.70	29.40
Axis Bank	1248.80	2.50
Bajaj Auto	9034.00	-23.50
Bajaj Finserv	2137.00	-3.20
Bajaj Finance	1062.95	-9.80
Bharat Elec	407.20	-6.35
Bharti Airtel	2100.60	10.40
Cipla	1581.10	13.00
Coal India	382.00	-9.40
Dr Reddys Lab	1250.90	-38.50
Tata Motors CV	260.75	0.00
Eicher Motors	6952.00	-50.50
Eternal Ltd.	330.45	-4.15
Grasim Ind	2958.70	25.80
HCL Tech	1557.30	35.20
HDFC Bank	1007.85	4.30
HDFC Life	761.30	14.30
Hindalco	856.25	7.30
Hind Unilever	2488.10	-9.00
ICICI Bank	1370.40	7.30
IntGlobeAvi	5813.00	4.00
Infosys	1510.40	10.20
ITC	421.60	3.70
Jio Financial Servic-es Ltd.	309.75	1.80
JSW Steel	1207.90	23.70
Kotak Bank	2150.50	-10.30
L&T	3958.10	-14.70
M&M	3534.70	-44.40
Maruti Suzuki	16138.00	-173.00
Max Healthcare	1189.50	9.80
NestleIndia	1273.00	2.00
NTPC	347.50	8.35
ONGC	255.64	5.10
PowerGrid Corp	295.35	7.10
Reliance Ind	1504.20	17.30
SBI Life	1970.40	33.60
State Bank	939.75	9.50
Shriram Finance Ltd.	738.45	14.75
Sun Pharma	1715.90	28.90
TataConsumerPro-duct	1177.10	8.20
Tata Steel	185.19	3.38
TCS	3057.60	-0.30
Tech Mahindra	1452.20	4.80
Titan	3748.30	31.30
Tata Motors PV	411.35	-0.15
Trent Ltd.	4780.60	55.20
UltraTech Cement	11999.00	68.00
Wipro	242.28	-0.10

SEBI favours 'simpler' mutual fund rules

Regulator proposes to do away with old rules, simplify language, and rationalise fee structure; changes aimed at reducing investor costs

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed major changes to mutual fund regulations to reduce investor costs and to make them simpler.

The markets regulator said that the proposals contained provisions to do away with old rules, simplify the language, and rationalise fee structures.

"Numerous amendments over the last 29 years have contributed to the MF regulations becoming considerably voluminous and complex. Hence, SEBI has undertaken an exercise to comprehensively review the MF regulations," according to a consultation paper.

As part of the efforts to make MF schemes cheaper for the investor, SEBI has done away with the additional expense of 0.05% charged by AMCs over exit load. "In 2012, mutual funds were mandated to credit exit load to the scheme and AMCs were allowed to charge 20 bps more as additional expenses to the scheme. A basis point is one-hundredth of a percentage. The said additional charge, was reduced from 20 bps to 5 bps in 2018," SEBI said.

"The provision for additional expense of 5 bps allowed to the AMCs to charge the mutual fund schemes, was transitory in nature..with an objective to rationalise cost for unit holder, this expense charged to the scheme has been removed from the draft MF regulations," SEBI said.

To lighten the impact of the removal of additional expense on exit load, SEBI proposed that the first two slabs of the expense ratio of open-ended active schemes be revised upwards by 5 bps. It also proposed to exclude all statutory levy like STT, GST, CTT, and stamp duty from the expense ratio limits along with the present permissible expenses for brokerage, exchange and regulatory fees. SEBI also proposed to reduce brokerage charges to 0.02% from 0.12% in cash market and 0.01% from 0.05% in the derivatives market.

Investor-friendly

To simplify MF regulations which have become voluminous and complex over the years, SEBI has made a number of proposals

- Additional expense of 0.05% charged by AMCs over exit load be done away with
- First two slabs of the expense ratio of open-ended active schemes be revised upwards by 5 bps

- Brokerage charges be slashed to 0.02% from 0.12% in cash market and to 0.01% from 0.05% in the derivatives market

India mulls $12-bn plan to bail out debt-laden State power discoms

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Private firms such as Adani Power are expected to benefit as they are likely to gain stakes in the state companies

India is considering a bailout exceeding ₹1 trillion ($12 billion) for debt-laden state-run power distribution companies.

To receive the bailout funds, the States will be required to privatise their electric utilities and transfer managerial control or keep control but list them on a stock exchange, according to three government officials and a document outlining the plan prepared by the Union Ministry of Power.

The plan marks Prime Minister Narendra Modi's toughest reform push yet to overhaul the chronically inefficient state-run electricity distribution companies, seen as the weakest link in India's energy chain. The Power Ministry and the Ministry of Finance are discussing the final details of the bailout, with an announcement expected in the February budget, said two government sources.

The ministries did not immediately respond to *Reuters'* requests for comments.

Under the proposal, at least 20% of the state's total power consumption must be met by private companies and the States must assume part of the retailer's debt, according to the Power Ministry presentation.

To do so the States can choose to privatise their distribution operations for access to loans to pay off existing debt under two options. First, the States can create a new distribution company, divest 51% of the equity, which will enable them to access a 50-year interest-free loan for the privatised company's debt, along with access to low-interest federal loans for five years, the presentation showed.

The second option would let States privatise up to 26% of the equity of an existing State-owned power distribution company in exchange for access to low-interest loans from the federal government for five years, it showed.

Alternatively, States that do not decide to transfer managerial control through privatisation must list their utilities on a recognised stock exchange within three years.

States that choose to list would receive low-interest loans from the federal government for infrastructure management, the presentation showed.

The State power retailers have accumulated losses of ₹7.08 trillion ($80.6 billion) and outstanding debt of ₹7.42 trillion ($84.4 billion) as of March 2024, the documents showed.

Private companies such as Adani Power, Reliance-Power, Tata Power, CESC and Torrent Power are expected to benefit from the reforms as they are likely to gain stakes in the State companies.

INBRIEF

Hindustan Petroleum Q2 PAT jumps six-fold to ₹3,830 crore

State-owned refiner Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL)'s profit after tax in the second quarter rose six-fold on a year-on-year basis to ₹3,830 crore aided by better refining margins and a lower base effect. Gross refining margins more than doubled to $8.80 for every barrel in Q2 from the corresponding period last year. Revenue from operations rose about 2% to more than ₹1.10 lakh crore. HPCL also announced an interim dividend of ₹5 for each equity share.

NMDC Q2 standalone net profit rises 33% to ₹1,695 crore

Iron ore producer NMDC reported standalone net profit rose 33% in the September quarter to ₹1,694.70 crore from ₹1,269.15 crore a year earlier. The higher net profit came on a 30% increase in revenue from operations to ₹6,260.85 crore (₹4,806.57 crore). The performance came in the backdrop of strong domestic steel demand and resilient mining operations. Iron ore production for the quarter was 23% higher year on year at 10.21 million tonnes (8.29 MT).

L&T posts 16% increase in Q2 net profit to ₹3,926 crore

Larsen & Toubro Ltd (L&T) for the second quarter ended September 30, 2025 reported a 16% year-on-year (YoY) growth in consolidated net profit to ₹3,926 crore backed by all-round performance. For the quarter, consolidated revenue grew 10% YoY to ₹67,984 crore. International revenues at ₹38,223 crore, constituted 56% of the total revenue. The consolidated order book of the group as on September 30, 2025, was at ₹6,67,047 crore, a growth of 15% over March 2025.

SBI MF invests ₹100 cr. in Lenskart

SBI Mutual Fund has invested ₹100 crore in eyewear retailer Lenskart Solutions in a pre-IPO (initial public offering) funding round. PTI

Starlink to hold demo runs in Mumbai

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Elon Musk's Starlink is scheduled to conduct demo-runs on October 30 and 31 in Mumbai to show compliance with security and technical conditions for satellite broadband services, according to sources. The demo, to be done before designated law enforcement agencies, will be based on the provisional spectrum assigned to Starlink, sources told PTI.

These demos are an essential requirement for Starlink to secure clearances before it can launch commercial services.

Sources said Starlink will run a demo to show compliance with the security norms (Lawful Interception System and Lawful Interception Monitoring) and technical conditions of the GMPCS authorisation.

AI wide-body ramp up in 2026: Wilson

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Campbell Wilson

Air India (AI) will induct a new wide-body aircraft every six weeks in 2026 for the next two years, which, alongside the refurbishment of legacy Boeing 787 and 777, will position it as a "modern, international" airline by 2028, according to CEO Campbell Wilson.

"Through the course of 2026 there is a massive ramp-up in our wide-body induction," Mr. Wilson said at the Aviation India Summit. The new additions will include the first of the 787-9s joining the airline in December 2025 and then in 2026, an average of one every six weeks. These will be mostly 787-9s and also two Airbus A350-1000s in the financial year 2026.

So far, the airline has inducted six A350s from its order of 68 wide-body jets, which form part of its larger 570-aircraft buy from Boeing and Airbus. So far, the AI Group, including Air India Express, has added nearly 57 new planes. Overall, the airline will continue to add a new aircraft every six to seven days. By 2027, all of the 26 787 fleet will be refurbished fully.

Cognizant Q3 net income slides 53%

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

As much as 30% of the code is written by machines now, translating into greater productivity

U.S.-based IT major Cognizant, which has a substantial number of employees in India, on Wednesday reported a 53% drop in net income for Q3 2025 to $274 million, hit by a one-time, non-cash income tax expense of $390 million.

Cognizant - which follows a January-December financial year- had posted a net income of $582 million in Q3 2024.

Revenue, however, rose 7.3% year-over-year to $5,415 million for the quarter ended September, driven by gains coming in from investments in AI.

The Nasdaq-listed IT services firm raised the lower end of its full-year revenue growth forecast, pegging it at $21.05-21.10 billion against $20.7-21.1 billion earlier. For the fourth quarter, Cognizant expects revenue in the range of $5.27-5.33 billion.

Cognizant CEO Ravi Kumar S. said Q3 2025 marked the firm's fifth consecutive quarter of year-over-year organic revenue growth and strongest sequential organic growth since 2022. He said Cognizant, over the last 2.5 years, had been investing in transitioning to an AI builder. As much as 30% of the code is written by machines now, translating into greater productivity.

Sugar sector concerned over reduction in ethanol sourcing

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

Centre must raise ethanol procurement price.

The sugar sector is concerned over the cut in ethanol sourcing in the 2025-2026 ethanol supply year.

The Indian Sugar & Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) said only 289 crore litre ethanol had been allocated from sugar-based feedstock or 28% of the total need. The industry invested almost ₹40,000 crore with a capacity to supply 650 crore litre of ethanol a year. It supplied 330 crore litre last ethanol supply year.

The sector expects almost 345 lakh tonne sugar output between October 1 and September 30, 2026. Of this, local consumption will be just 284 lakh tonne and sugar diversion for ethanol 34 lakh tonne leading to excess sugar stocks.

While the Fair and Remunerative Price of sugarcane rose 16.5% to ₹355 a quintal since 2022-23, ethanol procurement prices from sugarcane juice and B-heavy molasses was static at ₹60.73 and ₹65.61 a litre respectively. Ethanol's cost of production was ₹66.09 a litre from B-heavy molasses and ₹70.70 a litre from cane juice.

The minimum selling price (MSP) of sugar has been ₹31 a kg since February 2019 with output cost at ₹40.24/kg. The Centre must ensure 50% ethanol is sourced from sugar sector, raise MSP, announce sugar export policy and increase ethanol procurement prices, ISMA said.

Akasa IPO in two to three years, says CEO Dube

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Three-year-old airline Akasa will come out with an IPO in two to five years, CEO Vinay Dube said.

"With Boeing increasing its production rate, there is more confidence in our expansion," the CEO said on expansion. He added the airline will add 196 aircraft until December 2032

The CEO said 85% of the 400 grounded pilots were now actively flying and by the end of the next 30 to 60 days, all of them will accrue flying hours.

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग क्षेत्र उदयपुर
दूरभाष: 0294-2481538, ईमेल: ace.uda.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
क्रमांक: अ.मु.अ./उदय/अंके./2025-26/10400-10409 दिनांक: 16.10.2025
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 19/2025-26
जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग क्षेत्र उदयपुर के अधीन उदयपुर शहर में वार्ड 41 के तहत पेयजल योजनाओं के कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन बिड्स इच्छुक पात्र बिडर्स ई-निविदा संख्या 19/2025-26दिनांक 24.10.2025 सायं 6.00 बजे से दिनांक 11.11.2025 को सायं 6.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। बिड से संबंधित समस्त जानकारी प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in व http://sppp.raj.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है।
यूबीएन नम्बर- NIT No. 19/25-26 UBN No. PHE2526WSOB07762
(शैतान सिंह)
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जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग
क्षेत्र उदयपुर
DIPR/C/15682/2025

Government of Kerala
Power (A) Department
NOTIFICATION
No:133/A1/2025/PD Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 29/10/2025
Sub: Appointment of **Member [Law]** of the Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission.
Application are invited to the post of **Member [Law]** in the Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission.
Applications in the prescribed format with bio data and details of experience superscribing the envelope **"Application for appointment as Member [Law], Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission"** may be sent by Registered Post with acknowledgement due to the following address: **Additional Chief Secretary, Power (A) Department Government of Kerala, Government Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram- 695 001, Kerala.** The last date for receipt of applications is **5 pm on 29/11/2025**. The notification and other details are also made available in **www.kerala.gov.in, www.kseb.in, www.erckerala.org.**
F4/2025/I&PRD

V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority
Civil Engineering Department
Tuticorin-628 004.
SAGARMALA
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

#	Name of the work	Estimated cost Put to tender value (Amount in INR)	Cost of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (Amount in INR)	Online Tender opening date
1.	Development of road and drainage facility at Coal Yard-III in VOCPA	7,46,22,336/-	14,92,500/-	07.11.2025

Note:
For eligible tenderers, downloading of bid documents from the NIC e-tendering website:
i) https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app
ii) https://www.vocport.gov.in
Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER, VOCPA

SUCHITWA MISSION
LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Suchitwa Mission is inviting Expressions of Interest (EoI) for empanelling private agencies with existing biodegradable waste processing facilities or willing to invest in establishing facilities for the scientific management and processing of biodegradable waste and for providing services for the collection of biodegradable waste.
Interested agencies may download the EoI document published on Suchitwa Mission website, **www.suchitwamission.org** and submit the application for empanelment with credentials & testimonials to **'sanitationkerala@gmail.com'**.
(D3/805/2025/I&PRD) Sd/- Executive Director

International Institute for Population Sciences
[Deemed to be University]
An Autonomous Organization of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India
Govandi Station Road, Deonar, Mumbai – 400088. Contact Details: Tel: 91-22- 42372489/490
Email: administration@iipsindia.ac.in Website: www.iipsindia.ac.in
APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR & SENIOR PROFESSOR
Advt. no. IIPS/RECT.DIR & SR. PROF./02/2025
The International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, invites applications for the post of Director & Senior Professor in the prescribed format along with attested copies of testimonials/ certificates etc. to be addressed to **"Mr. Amrit Lal Jangid, Director (Statistics), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Room No.317, 3rd floor, IRCS Building, Red Cross Road, New Delhi – 110001".**
For details please visit Institute's website at **www.iipsindia.ac.in**. **The last date for the receipt of the application in the prescribed format will be four weeks from the date of publishing the advertisement.**
Applications received thereafter will not be considered.
DIRECTOR & SR. PROFESSOR [ADDL. CHARGE]
IIPS, MUMBAI.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
No.: EM/WSD-II/TECH-04/2025/1540, Date: 14.10.2025
e-TCN No.EM/WS- 33/2025
Name of the Work : "Hiring of 01 no. new Truck Mounted Conveyorised Mechanical Road Sweeping Machine for cleaning of roads inside Port area for a period of 05 (03+02) years". Estimated Cost : Rs.6,34,80,000/- excluding GST and cost of Diesel. Last Date & time of submission of bid : Dt.04.11.2025 up to 1800 Hrs. Refer our website for details : https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app
Executive Engineer(M), Workshop Division-II, PPA.
PPA/PR/49/2025-2026, dt.29/10/2025

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KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices, Stores and Purchase Dept, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027
NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO 07 Dated: 29/10/2025
Tenders (Pre-qualification and or (Commercial offers) through e-procurement portal are invited for supply of the following Goods/Services.

Tender Nos. as per E-portal	Nomenclature of Items/ Services/ Equipment	Tender Value in Crores Rs. (Approx)	Last date for submission of tender @ 17:00 Hrs.
KSRTC/2025-26/SE2005	Engaging an agency for providing Technical assistants on Contract Basis to Divisions of KSRTC.	38.24	03/11/2025
KSRTC/2025-26/IND0240	Procurement of Server	0.63	10/11/2025
KSRTC/2025-26/IND0241	Procurement of 3-point Universal seat belt for Bus / Truck	0.49	10/11/2025

Further any addendum / corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, scope of work other tender terms and conditions etc, will be uploaded/ published through e-portal only.
NOTE: Interested suppliers need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information log into **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** In case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell (Phone. No. 080-46010000/080-68948777). Interested bidders may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. Mail to support@eprochelpdesk.com for further information if required. In case of bidders need assistance from KSRTC, can communicate at cosp@ksrtc.org, (contact: 7760990225, 7760990224).
Sd/- Controller of Stores & Purchases
(Tender Inviting Authority)
DIPR/CP/JA/3487/2025-26

WASHINGTON

U.S. Fed announces second quarter-point rate cut of 2025

REUTERS

The U.S. Federal Reserve on Wednesday announced its second straight quarter-point interest rate cut to hedge against growing labour market risks, in a meeting that highlighted growing divisions among its ranks. Policymakers voted 10-2 in favour of lowering the bank's key lending rate to between 3.75% and 4.00%. AFP

SANTIAGO DE CUBA

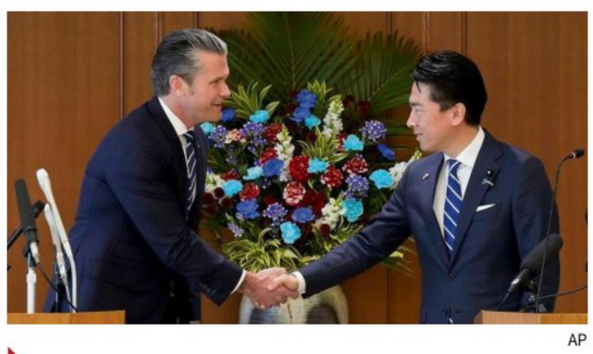
Hundreds of thousands evacuate as Hurricane Melissa hits Cuba

AP

Hundreds of thousands of people were evacuated in eastern Cuba and a hurricane warning was in effect for the provinces of Granma, Santiago de Cuba, Guantanamo, Holguin and Las Tunas as Hurricane Melissa made landfall as a Category 3 storm early Wednesday. AP

TOKYO

U.S. welcomes Japan's arms boost, says alliance key to deter China



AP

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Wednesday welcomed Japan's determination to accelerate its ongoing military build-up and defence spending. During a visit to Japan, Mr. Hegseth said he hopes to see those pledges implemented as soon as possible, noting China's increasingly assertive military activity. AP

RIO DE JANEIRO

132 killed in Rio police crackdown on drug gang, says public defender

AFP

The Rio de Janeiro public defender's office on Wednesday said 132 people died in the bloodiest police raid against drug gangs in the Brazilian city's history, as grieving residents laid out dozens of bodies in the street. "The update is 132 dead," the public defender's office, which provides legal assistance to the poor, said. AFP

Hasina warns of mass boycott as her party barred from polls

The ban on the Awami League is not only unjust, it is self-defeating, says the deposed Prime Minister, adding she would not return to Bangladesh under any government formed after elections that exclude her party, and plans to remain in India

Reuters
NEW DELHI/DHAKA

Millions of supporters of Bangladesh's Awami League will boycott next year's national election, after the party was barred from contesting the polls, ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said on Wednesday, from her exile in New Delhi.

Ms. Hasina, 78, said she would not return to Bangladesh under any government formed after elections that exclude her party, and plans to remain in India, where she fled in August 2024 following a deadly student-led uprising.

An interim government headed by Nobel Peace Laureate Muhammad Yunus has governed Bangladesh since Ms. Hasina's ouster and has pledged to hold elections next February.

Power struggle: The Awami League and Bangladesh Nationalist Party have long dominated the country's politics. FILE PHOTO

"The ban on the Awami League is not only unjust, it is self-defeating," Ms. Hasina said in emailed responses to *Reuters* – her first media engagement since her dramatic fall from power after 15 straight years at the helm of Bangladeshi politics.

"The next government must have electoral legitimacy. Millions of people support the Awami League, so as things stand, they will not vote. You cannot disenfranchise millions of people if you want a political system that works."

Bangladesh has over 126 million registered voters. The Awami League and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party have long dominated the country's politics, and the BNP is widely expected to win the upcoming vote.

The Election Commission suspended the Awami League's registration in May. Earlier, the Yunus-led government banned all party activities, citing national security threats and war crimes investigations into senior Awami League leaders.

"We are not asking Awami League voters to support other parties," Ms. Hasina said. "We still hope common sense will prevail and we will be allowed to contest the election ourselves."

She did not say if she or anyone else on her behalf was holding any back-channel talks with Bangladeshi authorities to let the Awami League participate in the polls.

The International Crimes Tribunal, Bangladesh's domestic war crimes court, has concluded proceedings against Ms. Hasina, who faces charges of crimes against humanity over the violent crackdown on student protests in mid-2024.

Ms. Hasina denied the charges.

"These proceedings are a politically motivated charade," she said. "They've been brought by kangaroo courts, with guilty verdicts a foregone conclusion."

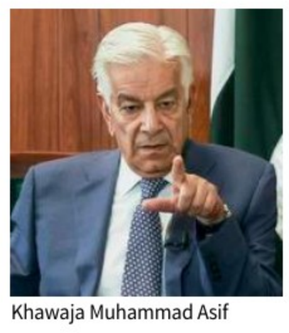
Pak. warns Kabul of stern response to new attacks

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Defence Minister warned Afghanistan on Wednesday that any new "terrorist or suicide attack" by militants on Pakistani soil would draw a stern response, hours after talks between them in Istanbul failed to secure a peace agreement.

Earlier this month, Pakistan's military launched attacks on what it said were hideouts of the Pakistani Taliban in Afghanistan, killing dozens of people whom it described as insurgents. Afghanistan said the people killed were civilians and struck Pakistani military posts in response, claiming 58 Pakistani soldiers were killed. Pakistan's military said it lost 23 soldiers in the border fighting.

The two sides agreed to a ceasefire brokered by countries including Qatar on October 19 in Doha, followed by four days of talks in Istanbul that ended inconclusively.



Khawaja Muhammad Asif

In a post on X, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif told Afghanistan's Taliban Government that "any terrorist attack or suicide bombing inside Pakistan shall give you the bitter taste of such misadventures."

There was no immediate comment from Kabul on the collapse of peace talks or on Mr. Asif's remarks, but Afghanistan's state broadcaster *RTA* reported that the negotiations stalled because of what it called "irrational demands" from Pakistan.

According to RTA, Islamabad sought assurances that no attacks would be launched from Afghan territory, while the Taliban delegation said the Pakistani Taliban, also known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, was an internal issue for Islamabad.

Mr. Asif in a strongly-worded tweet also accused Kabul of "blindly pushing Afghanistan into yet another conflict" to preserve what he described as its "usurped rule and war economy." "Let me assure them that Pakistan does not require to employ even a fraction of its full arsenal to completely obliterate the Taliban regime and push them back to the caves for hiding," he said.

Despite the failure of the talks, a ceasefire remained in place, and no new clashes were reported along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

U.S. will cut troops in Europe: Romania

Agence France-Presse
BUCHAREST

Washington has told Romania, which neighbours war-torn Ukraine, and allies it will reduce the number of U.S. troops deployed on NATO's eastern flank, Romania's Defence Ministry said on Wednesday, a move some officials downplayed while analysts warned it could embolden Russia.

U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly criticised NATO, and insisted that European allies boost military spending as Ukraine battles Russia's invasion.

Some 85,000 American troops are stationed in Europe, including 20,000 troops deployed to reinforce NATO's eastern flank after Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, according to the U.S. Defence Department.

The latest announcement came after reports this year that Washington could withdraw 10,000 troops from eastern Europe as the U.S. focus shifts more towards the Indo-Pacific region, which the Pentagon called its "priority theatre".

"The resizing of U.S. forces is a result of the new priorities of the presidential administration, announced back in February," Romania's Defence Ministry said. The decision "also took into account the fact that NATO has strengthened its presence and activity on the eastern flank."

Myanmar junta says foreign media will be allowed to cover elections

Agence France-Presse
YANGON

International media will be allowed to cover Myanmar's upcoming junta-run polls, election authorities said Wednesday, an apparent invitation for foreign press to scrutinise the deeply disputed vote.

Myanmar's junta has "shattered the media landscape" with censorship and intimidation since staging a 2021 coup that sparked a civil war, Reporters Without Borders says.

Local journalists bore the brunt of the crackdown while foreign media quit the country en masse, with *AFP* the only international news agency maintaining a full in-country bureau.

Supporters of Myanmar's Union Solidarity and Development Party during election campaign in Myanmar on Tuesday. AP

The junta has touted polls starting December 28 as a path to peace, but the vote will be blocked from rebel-held enclaves and monitors are dismissing it as a ploy to disguise continuing military rule.

The junta-stacked Union Election Commission said in a statement "both local and international news media will be allowed to cover" the election, due to unfold in phases over a matter of weeks.

The junta-run information ministry "will scrutinize and endorse eligible international media organizations", said the notice in state newspaper *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

Militants withdraw

One of Myanmar's most powerful ethnic armed opposition factions, Ta'ang National Liberation Army, has agreed to a China-brokered withdrawal from a lucrative ruby mining hub, the group said on Wednesday.

Myanmar has been mired in a civil war since the military grabbed power in a 2021 coup, with the junta fighting an array of pro-democracy guerrillas and powerful ethnic minority armed groups. The ruby-mining town of Mogok was captured by rebels last summer.

Finalised trade deal with S. Korea: Trump

Agence France-Presse
GYEONGJU

U.S. President Donald Trump indicated on Wednesday that a trade deal had been reached with South Korea's President Lee Jae Myung, before adding that the agreement was "pretty much" finalised.

"We reached a deal. We did a lot of different things. Great session," the U.S. leader said. But he then appeared to walk back the claim, telling a dinner including Mr. Lee that the deal was "pretty much finalised". "We came to a conclusion on a lot of very different items," Mr. Trump said.

In July, Mr. Trump said Washington had agreed to

Donald Trump

cut tariffs on South Korean imports to 15% in exchange for a $350 billion investment pledge. But steep auto tariffs remained in place, and the two governments were divided over the structure of the investment pledge.

Speaking to reporters, top Seoul presidential aide Kim Yong-beom confirmed a deal had been struck.

WESTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
Coal Estate, Civil Lines, Nagpur - 440001, Maharashtra, India. Website-www.westerncoal.in

NOTICE

All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of **Coal India Ltd. www.coalindia.in**, respective subsidiary Company **(Western Coalfields Limited) https://westerncoal.in**, CIL e-Procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in.** Procurement of goods and services (if available on GeM Portal) are done through GeM portal only **https://gem.gov.in.**

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION AMET (RAJSAMAND)
File No.1365 Date : 15.10.2025

Notice Inviting Bid

Bids for **Nit No 21/2025-26, (Permanent Restoration of CD & Road works) 5 Nos.** are invited from interested bidders upto **Date 06.11.2025, 06.00 P.M.** Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state. and – departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs.595.71 Lacs.**

NIB No. PWD2526A3869		
UBN No.		
1. PWD2526WSOB14773	2. PWD2526WSOB14774	3. PWD2526WSOB14775
4. PWD2526WSOB14776	5. PWD2526WSOB14777	

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
DIPR/C/15763/2025 PWD DIVISION AMET

Government of Tamil Nadu
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
CHENNAI CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE CIRCLE

TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.60/2025-2026/HDO/Dated: 22.10.2025

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, **Percentage tender through online only** are invited **upto 02/12/2025 at 11.00 AM** by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Chennai Circle for the works under **Special Infrastructure Improvement Programme for Chennai City 2025-2026,** pertaining to Chennai City Roads (H) C&M Division-I.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details will be available from **31/10/2025** onwards in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in.** If any Changes/Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Chennai Circle.
DIPR/5851/TENDER/2025

टैलीफैक्स– 0135–2522941 **BRIDCUL (ब्रिडकुल)** ई–मेल: bridcul@gmail.com CIN No. U45203UR2008SGC032591
ब्रिज, रोपवे, टनल एण्ड अदर इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेंट कॉरपोरेशन ऑफ उत्तराखण्ड लिमिटेड
(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम) पूर्व में उत्तराखण्ड राज्य अवस्थापना विकास निगम लिमिटेड
प्रधान कार्यालय: अवस्थापना भवन, 583–ठ, राजकीय आई0टी0आई0 निरंजनपुर के सामने, माजरा, सहारनपुर रोड, देहरादून–248001

Ref No: 2353/BRIDCUL-921/25 **Dated: 29/10/2025**

E-Tendering

On behalf of Hon'ble, Governor of Uttarakhand, E-Tenders are invited by Managing Director BRIDCUL, for the below work at Sr.no. 1 from the Contractors registered with any Govt./Semi Govt./PSU/Nigam in suitable Class & Category and for work at Sr. no. 2 from the Contractors registered with BRIDCUL only in Category-II (Rs 02 to 05 Cr.) for the work given as below:-

S. No.	Ref No.	Name of Project	Estimated Cost (In Lac Including GST)	Earnest Money (In Lac)	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs.)	Time Period
1	BRIDCUL/HQ HLD/59/2025-26)	SITC of Lift/Elevators work at proposed 100 Bedded Mental Hospital at Gethia Distt. Nainital	84.05	1.68	5000+ 18%GST	18 Months
2	BRIDCUL/HQ HLD/60/2025-26)	Internal Electrification & Allied works for Art & Science at SSJ University Almora	240.49	4.81	5000+ 18%GST	18 Months

For above tenders, document download start date is **31.10.2025** and Bid submission end date is **14.11.2025** at **1500 Hrs.** The details of e-tender of above works can be obtained directly from website **https://uktenders.gov.in**

Changes, if any will be intimated only through website **https://uktenders.gov.in**

DGM (HQ)

KEEPING COOL

The team that overcomes pressure will be successful: coach Shelley

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Australia head coach Shelley Nitschke has played down the favourite's tag for her team going into the ODI World Cup semifinal against India. "I don't think we go in as the underdogs or favourites. It's a level-playing field. The team that holds our nerves and is able to overcome the pressure should be successful," she said.

SPECIAL ONE

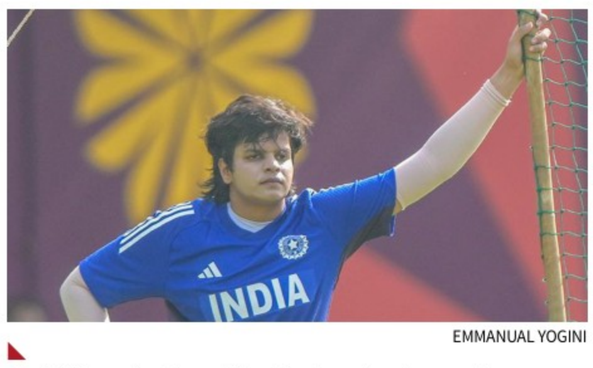
Rohit tops the ODI batters' charts for the first time in his career

AP

Rohit Sharma, on Wednesday, claimed the top spot in the ICC men's ODI batting rankings for the first time in his career. The 38-year-old climbed two spots on the back of his unbeaten century in the third and final ODI in Sydney. Rohit overtook Afghanistan's Ibrahim Zadran and teammate Shubman Gill to rise to the top.

CONFIDENT

I feel bad for Pratika.... but I trust myself: Shafali ahead of semifinal



EMMANUAL YOGINI

Shafali Verma finds herself back in the national set-up almost exactly a year after her last ODI outing. "What happened with Pratika was unfortunate. No player wants to see a teammate injured. But for me It's about trusting myself. I've been in such situations earlier, so I'll stay calm and back my game," she said.

STRONG FINISH

Puneri Paltan pips Telugu Titans, faces Dabang Delhi in final

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Puneri Paltan set up a final clash against Dabang Delhi in PKL-12 after scripting a magnificent comeback to score a 50-45 win against Telugu Titans in Qualifier 2 in New Delhi on Wednesday. This will be the third final in four years for the season-10 champion. Starring for the victors were Aditya Shinde (21 points) and Pankaj Mohite (10).

SA rides on Wolvaardt and Kapp's brilliance

The skipper scores 169, stitches a crucial stand with the No. 5 batter and prevents a slide before upping the ante to take the team to 319; the all-rounder decimates England with a spell of 7-3-20-5

Proteas' day out: After Wolvaardt powered the team to a mammoth total, Kapp produced telling blows to trigger celebrations in the South Africa camp. RITU RAJ KONWAR

ODI WORLD CUP

Lavanya L
GUWAHATI

On the eve of the semifinal against England at the ACA Stadium here, a hunger for redemption was palpable in the South African camp. There was the lingering ghost of that 69 all out against this opponent at this very venue to be exorcised. A knockout fixture presented the perfect stage.

Laura Wolvaardt and Marizanne Kapp led from the front as they powered South Africa to a resounding 125-run win and its first-ever ODI World Cup final.

A scintillating 169-run knock from Wolvaardt formed the backbone of a mammoth score of 319 for seven on a strip the curator called a 'Mumbai wicket.' Sophie Ecclestone broke a 116-run stand between her and a struggling Tazmin Brits, nutmegging her on one of her failed reverse sweep attempts.

The talismanic tweaker, visibly in pain after sustaining an injury to a joint near her collarbone a few days ago, then removed Anneke Bosch for a duck. Sciver-Brunt sent back Sune Luus, with just three runs added in the meantime.

Wolvaardt and Kapp's 72-run stand then steadied the ship, but Ecclestone pegged back by dismissing the former.

Sinalo Jafta and Annerie Dercksen soon followed, but Wolvaardt was unfazed, as she brought up a remarkable maiden ODI World Cup ton.

From 202 in 40 overs, South Africa added 117 runs in the final 10, 68 coming off Wolvaardt's bat. When she fell in the 48th, the 26-year-old was patted back to the dugout by her opponents, after which ovations and hugs awaited.

Needing to pull off its highest chase in the format (the previous one being 264), England began abysmally, losing three wickets for just one run, Kapp (two wickets) and Ayabonga Khaka sharing the spoils.

The ever-reliable Sciver-Brunt hand-held the Herculean pursuit, building a 107-run stand with Alice Capsey.

A cramping Kapp persevered, sending Capsey, Sciver-Brunt and Sophia Dunkley back to complete a five-for, much like she did against the same opponent in a league stage win in the 2022 edition. Danni Wyatt-Hodge, playing just her second match of the tournament, and Linsey Smith resisted but in vain. The colour faded from the faces of the four-time champion as the dugout silently watched the curtains fall on its campaign.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA
Laura Wolvaardt c Capsey b Bell 169 *(143b, 20x4, 4x6)*, Tazmin Brits b Ecclestone 45 *(65b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Anneke Bosch b Ecclestone 0 *(3b)*, Sune Luus b Sciver-Brunt 1 *(6b)*, Marizanne Kapp c Dean b Ecclestone 42 *(33b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Sinalo Jafta b Bell 1 *(4b)*, Annerie Dercksen b Ecclestone 4 *(14b)*, Chloe Tryon (not out) 33 *(26b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Nadine de Klerk (not out) 11 *(6b, 2x4)*; Extras (lb-2, w-11): 13; Total (for seven wkts. in 50 overs): 319.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-116 (Brits, 22.2 overs), 2-116 (Bosch, 22.5), 3-119 (Luus, 25.3), 4-191 (Kapp, 36.3), 5-192 (Jafta, 37.1), 6-202 (Dercksen, 40.1), 7-291 (Wolvaardt, 47.6).

ENGLAND BOWLING
Bell 10-0-55-2, Smith 10-0-69-0, Sciver-Brunt 8-0-67-0, Dean 10-0-67-0, Ecclestone 10-1-44-4, Capsey 2-0-15-0.

ENGLAND
Amy Jones b Kapp 0 *(2b)*, Tammy Beaumont c Jafta b Khaka 0 *(1b)*, Heather Knight b Kapp 0 *(3b)*, Nat Sciver-Brunt c Jafta b Kapp 64 *(76b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Alice Capsey c de Klerk b Luus 50 *(71b, 6x4)*, Danni Wyatt-Hodge c sub (Sekhukhune) b de Klerk 34 *(31b, 5x4)*, Sophia Dunkley c Jafta b Kapp 2 *(10b)*, Charlie Dean c Jafta b Kapp 0 *(1b)*, Sophie Ecclestone c Dercksen b Mlaba 2 *(12b)*, Linsey Smith c Luus b de Klerk 27 *(36b, 4x4)*, Lauren Bell (not out) 9 *(12b, 2x4)*; Extras (w-6): 6; Total (in 42.3 overs): 194.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (Jones, 0.2), 2-0 (Knight, 0.5), 3-1 (Beaumont, 1.1), 4-108 (Capsey, 22.5), 5-138 (Sciver-Brunt, 28.3), 6-144 (Dunkley, 30.2), 7-144 (Dean, 30.3), 8-151 (Ecclestone, 33.2), 9-175 (Wyatt-Hodge, 38.6).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING
Kapp 7-3-20-5, Khaka 8-0-28-1, de Klerk 5.3-0-24-2, Mlaba 8-0-40-1, Luus 6-0-41-1, Tryon 8-0-41-0.

Toss: England; **PoM:** Wolvaardt.
South Africa won by 125 runs.

Can India stop the Australian juggernaut?

Amol Karhadkar
NAVI MUMBAI

Australia has won seven of the 12 Women's ODI World Cups so far. The last time it lost a World Cup game was eight years ago – to India – when Harmanpreet Kaur produced her unforgettable blitz in Derby in July 2017. No wonder then that the 2025 edition has often been dubbed as a battle among the rest for the runners-up spot.

Inconsistent

India, buoyed by its strong lead-up to the tournament and the advantage of home conditions, entered this World Cup as the top challenger to Australia's dominance.

However, an inconsistent league phase has left the host facing the defending champion in Thursday's semifinal instead of in a dream final.

In and out

Perhaps in a move aimed at unsettling Australia, India has drafted in Shafali Verma as an injury replacement for the in-form Pratika Rawal, who hurt her right leg during the last league game against Bangladesh.

Shafali is expected to open alongside Smriti Mandhana, reigniting one of India's most explosive partnerships.

While fans may hope for another Harmanpreet special reminiscent of 2017, much will depend on Smriti, the vice-captain, to anchor the innings against a bowling attack she has often dominated in the past.

Practice makes perfect: Jemimah gears up for the Aussie challenge. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Today's match

SEMIFINAL 2

Navi Mumbai, 3 p.m.

H2H in ODIs
Played: 60
India 11 | Australia 49

In World Cups
Played: 14
India 3 | Australia 11

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR

Both sides endured brief injury concerns, but it is understood that Richa Ghosh and Australia skipper Alyssa Healy have recovered and are available for selection.

Their return adds balance and experience to both line-ups ahead of what promises to be a high-stakes clash.

With heavy rain forecast across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region over the next 48 hours, there remains a cloud of uncertainty over the weather.

The cricket community will hope for clear skies and a packed D.Y. Patil Stadium on Thursday – the perfect stage for India to challenge the might of the team to beat.

Suryakumar... on the go. AP

SKY shines before the sky opens up

Press Trust of India
CANBERRA

India skipper Suryakumar Yadav was back in his element with some spectacular hits but inclement weather proved to be a complete dampener as the first T20 International against Australia was called off after steady showers on Wednesday.

With his deputy Shubman Gill (37 n.o., 20b, 4x4, 1x6) also in good nick, Suryakumar showed controlled aggression en route his unbeaten 39 (24b, 3x4, 2x6) and took the score to 97 for one in 9.4 overs when rain intervened. The duo added 62 runs off 35 balls for the second wicket.

That was the shot of confidence that Suryakumar needed for future assignments.

Earlier, Abhishek Sharma made 19 (14b, 4x4).

The scores:
India 97/1 in 9.4 overs (Gill 37 n.o., Suryakumar 39 n.o.) vs Australia.
Toss: Australia. *No Result.*
Second T20I: Oct. 31, Melbourne, 1.45 p.m. IST.

Shrivalli makes short work of Maaya; Sahaja in second round

CHENNAI OPEN

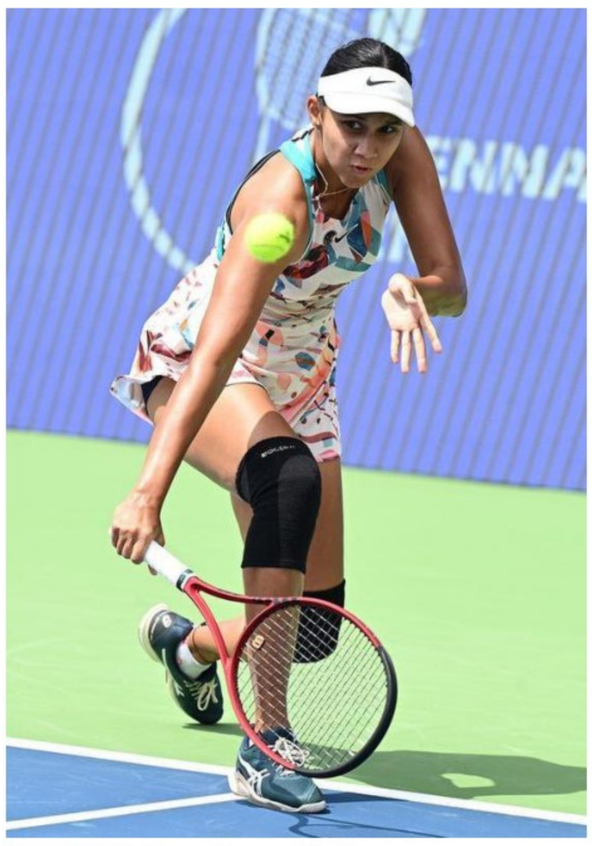
K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

If the players largely stayed indoors due to rain for the first two days of the WTA 250 Chennai Open tennis tournament, the third day at the SDAT-Nungambakkam Stadium on Wednesday witnessed a few foreign players fall victim to the hot and humid conditions as they bowed out of the event.

Even as the competitors from abroad struggled to cope with the conditions, India's Shrivalli Bhamidipaty and Sahaja Yamalapalli posted first-round wins.

Shrivalli eased past 16-year-old Maaya Rajeshwaran 6-1, 6-4 while Sahaja, who turned 25 on Wednesday, got better as the match progressed as she scripted a 6-4, 6-2 victory over lucky loser Priska Nugroho of Indonesia to enter the round-of-16.

The much-anticipated contest between Shrivalli and Maaya fell flat as the latter couldn't rise to the occasion, making numerous unforced errors and being unable to devise a strategy to counter Shrivalli's aggression.



On song: Shrivalli proved too good for Maaya. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

It was a cakewalk for the 23-year-old Shrivalli in the first set, after she took a handy 4-1 lead.

After fighting back to level it 4-4, she dropped serve in the ninth game before her compatriot held serve to seal the win.

Barring Nina Stojanovic of Serbia, who pulled out due to a hip injury, second seed Francesca Jones (Great Britain), Maria Timofeeva (Uzbekistan) and Alina Charaeva (Russia) withdrew midway in the match, citing "heat illness."

The results (first round):
Singles: Zeynep Sonmez (Tur) bt Tatiana Prozorova (Rus) 7-5, 6-4; Linda Fruhvirtova (Cze) bt Astrid Lew Yan Foon (Fra) 6-2, 6-2; Shrivalli Bhamidipaty bt Maaya Rajeshwaran 6-1, 6-4; Donna Vekic (Cro) bt Vaishnavi Adkar 6-1, 6-2; Sahaja Yamalapalli bt Priska Nugroho (Ina) 6-4, 6-2; Kimberly Birrel (Aus) bt Nikola Bartunkova (Cze) 1-6, 6-1, 6-3; Mei Yamaguchi (Jpn) bt Francesca Jones (GBr) 5-7, 6-0, 1-0 (retd.); Janice Tjen (Ina) bt Caroline Werner (Ger) 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-2.

INBRIEF

Napoli three points clear at summit after win at Lecce

Napoli maintained its lead at the top of Serie A on Tuesday after the champion won a hard-fought contest at Lecce 1-0 and moved three points ahead of AC Milan, which drew 1-1 at Atalanta, and Roma. Napoli has 21 points from nine games.

The results: Atalanta 1 (Lookman 35) drew with AC Milan 1 (Ricci 4); Lecce 0 lost to Napoli 1 (Anguissa 69).

Anahat stuns Gilis, enters the last-four stage

India's Anahat Singh stunned holder and second seed Tinne Gilis of Belgium to storm into the semifinals of Canadian Open squash tournament in Toronto on Tuesday. Anahat won 12-10, 11-9, 11-9 to record the biggest victory of her career and the first against a top-10 player.

Mahaveer and Ferrari emerge victorious in Pro-Am Class

Mahaveer Raghunathan and teammate Lorenzo Ferrari finished the Italian GT Sprint Championship at Monza with a victory in the Pro-Am Class in Race 2. The pair ended sixth overall in the race.

Good day for Karnataka u-23 men's, u-19 women's teams

Karnataka defeated Uttar Pradesh by 75 runs in the BCCI Col. C.K. Nayudu Trophy under-23 match at Meerut. Meanwhile, Karnataka beat Bengal by 35 runs in the BCCI under-19 women's T20 Trophy match at Nagpur.

The scores: C.K. Nayudu Trophy: Karnataka 235 & 248 bt Uttar Pradesh 215 & 193 in 69 overs (Adarsh Singh 62, Dhruv Prabhakar 3/47, Hardik Raj 3/36).
BCCI u-19 women's T20 Trophy: Karnataka 161/4 in 20 overs (Rachitha Hatwar 50, Liyanka Shetty 47, Kashvi Kandikuppa 33, Diya Nandi 3/17) bt Bengal 126/7 in 20 overs (Ipsita Mondal 53 n.o.).

Marathon man Mahut calls time on tennis career

Frenchman Nicolas Mahut delivered an emotional farewell to professional tennis after his doubles defeat at the Paris Masters on Tuesday. The 43-year-old, who won five Grand Slam doubles titles in a career spanning 25 years, is best known for losing the longest professional tennis match in history against American John Isner at Wimbledon in 2010. The match lasted 11 hours and five minutes and took place over three days, with the last set lasting eight hours 11 minutes!

Rakesh stars in Kickstart's win with a brace

Rakesh Singh's brace helped Kickstart FC defeat Bengaluru FC 2-1 in the KSFA Super Division football league in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

The results: United Stars FC 2 (E.J. Adolf 15, Hendry Antony 17) bt Parikrma FC 1 (H. Kipgen 41); FC Agniputhra 3 (K. Merchant 14, Gautam Rajesh 44, Nithin Paul 45) bt Bangalore Dream United FC 0; Kickstart FC 2 (Rakesh Singh 51, 90) bt BFC 1 (K.P. Shamanad 15).

Equine illness halts Hyderabad races

The Hyderabad Race Club (HRC) had cancelled the final two race days of the Hyderabad Monsoon Races, scheduled for October 27 and 31, following an alarming outbreak of respiratory infections of unknown origin among a few horses stabled at the HRC. The decision comes in the wake of a precautionary advisory issued by the Veterinary Commission of the Turf Authorities of India (TAI), aimed at safeguarding equine health and preventing potential spread to other racing centres.

De Bruyne goes under the knife for hamstring injury

Napoli's Kevin De Bruyne underwent an operation on his injured hamstring in Belgium on Wednesday, the Serie A club announced. He is expected to be out for three to four months.

LIVE TELECAST

Women's ODI World Cup, second semifinal: India vs Australia, Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 3 p.m.
Tennis: WTA Chennai Open, Eurosport, 3 p.m.
Tennis: Paris Masters, Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 3 p.m.
Serie A: DAZN, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Pant in focus as he returns to competitive action

The wicketkeeper-batter will make a comeback after a three-month injury lay-off; chance for Sai Sudharsan to cement the No. 3 spot; Gurnoor and Khaleel will lead the pace attack

Testing the waters: The South Africa-A showdown will provide a perfect opportunity for Pant and his men to get into the groove ahead of the bigger challenge in the Test series against the Proteas. K. MURALI KUMAR & PTI

INDIA-A VS SA-A

Tarun Shastry
BENGALURU

Fearlessness and flamboyance are set to take centre stage at the BCCI Centre of Excellence Grounds as Rishabh Pant makes his return to competitive cricket, leading India-A against South Africa-A starting Thursday.

This marks Pant's comeback after a three-month injury lay off. The wicketkeeper-batter injured his foot during the fourth Test against England in late July and has been steadily working his way back to full fitness.

The setback forced him to miss the Asia Cup and the home Test series against the West Indies. However, this two-match, four-day series provides the perfect opportunity to regain rhythm and confidence ahead of India's upcoming Test assignment against world champion South Africa.

The 28-year-old, expected to return to the Test fold, has been training hard at the CoE, focusing on both his batting and wicketkeeping in practice sessions.

Adding further promise to the India-A line-up are the young guns in the top order. Top-order batter Sai Sudharsan will be eager to make a strong statement and solidify his credentials at the crucial No. 3 slot, while Devdutt Padikkal will carry the momentum from Ranji Trophy after scoring a fluent 96 for Karnataka against Saurashtra.

On the bowling front, Punjab's medium-pacer Gurnoor Brar, who played for India-A against Australia-A, adds energy to the pace attack.

Experienced left-arm pacer Khaleel Ahmed will look to build on his domestic form, having bagged a three-wicket haul for Rajasthan in a recent Ranji Trophy game.

The spin department, consisting of Saransh Jain, Manav Suthar, and Harsh Dubey, will provide Pant with valuable match practice behind the stumps, while also giving India's emerging talents an opportunity to showcase their skills ahead of the home Test season.

Work in progress: Sai Sudharsan says he is in the process of understanding the role of a No. 3 batter. PTI

Gambhir sir told me not to get desperate: Sai Sudharsan

Tarun Shastry
BENGALURU

India's latest No. 3, Sai Sudharsan, feels he has settled into the challenges of batting in a crucial position for his side. Speaking to the media on the eve of India A's four-day match against South Africa-A on Wednesday, he also mentioned the confidence boost he received from head coach Gautam Gambhir and the tactical adjustments he has made to his game.

"I feel very fortunate to have this series just before the main series, as it gives us a chance to build momentum. Personally, I've been working a lot on my footwork and on understanding the responsibilities of a number three batter. I'm learning the role better and trying to implement it tactically. It's about being a step ahead of the bowler, and I'm constantly working on that," said the 24-year-old.

Sai Sudharsan also highlighted the backing he has received from Gambhir.

"The support has been good. At the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi, GG sir called me aside. He told me not to get desperate and reminded me that I am here for a reason, that I'm one of the best players in the country.

"That reassurance gave me immense confidence and freedom. It helped me approach the game with the mindset to fight and win for my tribe," he added.

Shock win: Lakshya defeated fifth seed Popov. FILE PHOTO

Lakshya enters second round; Srikanth out

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
SAARBRUCKEN (GERMANY)

Lakshya Sen stunned fifth seed Christo Popov of France 21-16, 22-20 to enter the men's singles pre-quarterfinals at the $475,000 Hylo Open Super 500 badminton on Wednesday.

Lakshya will next face compatriot S. Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian, who defeated Malaysia's Jun Hao Leong 21-14, 18-21, 21-16 in another opening round match.

However, it was curtains for K. Srikanth, who lost 19-21, 11-21 to compatriot Kiran George. George will next face eight seed Toma Junior Popov of France.

In women's singles, Shriyanshi Valishetty outsmarted third seed Line Hojmark Kjaersfeldt of Denmark 21-19, 21-12, Rakshitha Santhosh Ramraj posted a 21-14, 21-16 win over Clara Azurmendi of Spain and Unnati Hooda got the better of Brazil's Juliana Viera 21-14, 21-13.

However, it was the end of the road for Anmol Kharb as she fought valiantly before losing 24-26, 21-23 to Julie Dawall Jakobsen of Denmark.

Other results (first round):
Women: Polina Buhrova bt Anupama Upadhyaya 21-19, 21-19; Neslihan Arin bt Aakarshi Kashyap 21-15, 21-15; Lin Hsiang-Ti bt Tanya Hemanth 21-14, 21-13.

Three international tournaments to be hosted by KSLTA

TENNIS

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

The S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium and Bengaluru will play host to three international tournaments over the course of the next few months.

The action starts with the high profile Billie Jean King Cup World Group Play-Off, slated to be held here from November 14 to 16. Drawn in Group 'G' alongside Slovenia and Netherlands, the Indian women's team features in the playoff round for only the second time.

The 10th edition of the Bengaluru Open, an ATP Challenger men's 125 event, has been slotted to start on January 5 next year. The tournament, which is usually held in February, will now take place ahead of Australian Open.

"As the first tournament of the men's calendar, the Bengaluru Open is sure to attract a quality field," Sunil Yajaman, hon. joint secretary of KSLTA, said here at a press conference on Wednesday.

The KPB Trust ITF Women's Open tournament is likely to be held in the last week of January, Yajaman added.

Bengaluru winter meeting gets underway on Nov. 1

Riaz Babu
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru winter meeting, comprising 24 race days with an aggregate prize money of ₹13.84 crore, is scheduled to be held between November 1 and March 21, 2026, it was announced at a press conference jointly addressed by Ramesh Manjunath, ex. chairman of the BTC and Zavaray S. Poonawalla on Wednesday.

The minimum guaranteed stakes for the Bangalore 1000 Guineas, Bangalore 2000 Guineas and Bangalore Oaks will be ₹40 lakh each and for the Bangalore winter Derby ₹1.5 crore with Mr. Poonawalla contributing 30% of the above-mentioned stakes.

Furthermore, post GST 40%, the club had initiated various cost-cutting measures to combat revenue losses from the tote, which included a proposed reduction in the stake money.

To address this issue, Mr. Poonawalla has voluntarily offered an amount of ₹1 crore to ensure there's no reduction in the prize money.

About 100 jockeys and 31 'A' licensed trainers are expected to take part in the winter meeting.

FC Goa qualifies for semifinals after thrashing Inter Kashi

SUPER CUP

Neeladri Bhattacharjee
MARGAO

Borja Herrera netted a brace and Dejan Drazic scored another as defending AIFF Super Cup champion FC Goa qualified for this edition's semifinals, thrashing Inter Kashi 3-0 here on Wednesday.

Goa took just over three minutes to break the deadlock at the PJN Stadium when Drazic struck home from a Muhammed Nemil pass after Kashi's defender David Humanes slipped in his box.

The Gaurs doubled the lead after the half-hour mark: Drazic set up Herrera on his left, who beat Kashi's goalkeeper Shubham Dhas on his near post on the volley.

On a high: Goa players celebrate a well-deserved win. X@INDIANFOOTBALL

As Kashi rummaged for ways to make a comeback, Herrera struck again: David Timor floated in a long ball from the back, and the Spaniard headed it in.

Earlier, NorthEast United's high line cost it dearly as it drew 2-2 with Jamshedpur FC at the GMC Stadium in Bambolim.

The Highlanders took the early lead, off Chema Nunez and Alaaeddine Ajaraie, but Jamshedpur struck once in either half, off Pronay Halder and Raphael Messi Bouli, respectively, to end the contest all square.

However, Goa's win meant both sides - NorthEast United and Jamshedpur FC – are now out of the title race.

Juan Pedro Benali's men got the opening goal in the 20th minute when Nunez shot past Jamshedpur's 'keeper Albino Gomes after Jairo Samperio had rattled the woodwork with a powerful volley.

Nine minutes later, NorthEast United got the ball from back to front using five passes. Nunez then set up Ajaraie in the box, who scored with his first touch.

Jamshedpur's Japanese talisman, Rei Tachikawa, then inspired the comeback: Pronay heading his corner and Messi Bouli scoring off his diagonal long ball at the far post.

All four teams will end their group stage on November 1, with the final round's Group B matches now dead rubbers.

The results: FC Goa 3 (Drazic 4, Herrera 37, 42) bt Inter Kashi 0. Jamshedpur FC 2 (Pronay 44, Messi Bouli 89) drew with NorthEast United 2 (Nunez 20, Ajaraie 29).

Oman to replace Pakistan in FIH Men's Jr. WC

Press Trust of India
LAUSANNE

Oman will replace Pakistan in the FIH Men's Junior World after the latter withdrew from the tournament to be held in Chennai and Madurai from November 28 to December 10, the International Hockey Federation confirmed on Wednesday.

Oman joins as the next highest placed team in the continental championship – Junior Asia Cup 2024 – which was the qualifying tournament for the Junior World Cup.

Pakistan was placed in Group B alongside India, Chile, and Switzerland.

Tickner and Mitchell fire New Zealand to series win

Reuters
HAMILTON

Late replacement Blair Tickner took four for 34 and Daryl Mitchell hit 56 not out as New Zealand beat England by five wickets in the second One-Day international in Hamilton on Wednesday to seal the three-match series.

The Black Caps skittled the tourists for 175 in just over 35 overs and, despite some fine pace bowling from Jofra Archer, Mitchell again steered the hosts across the line.

Seamer Tickner, brought in as a replacement for the injured Kyle Jamieson, got his first international start since May 2023 .

The scores: England 175 in 36 overs (Harry Brook 34, Jamie Overton 42, Blair Tickner 4/34) lost to New Zealand 177/5 in 33.1 overs (Rachin Ravindra 54, Daryl Mitchell 56 n.o., Mitchell Santner 34 n.o., Jofra Archer 3/23). **Toss:** NZ; **PoM:** Tickner.